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United Nations Environment Programme

Report of the Governing Council

Twenty-second session (3-7 February 2003)

General Assembly

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Fifty-eighth Session
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Note

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INTRODUCTION

1. The twenty-second session of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum was held at UNEP headquarters, Nairobi, from 3 to 7 February 2003. The Council adopted the present report at the 11th meeting, on 7 February 2003.

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

A. Opening of the session

2. The twenty-second session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum was opened at 10 a.m. on 3 February 2003 by Mr. David Anderson, President of the Governing Council at its twenty-first session. Welcoming the participants to the twenty-second session, he said that he wished to offer congratulations to Kenya for its free, fair and peaceful elections, which served as an inspiration to all. He then highlighted some of the areas in which significant progress had been made during his two-year period of service as President of the Governing Council. Referring to the World Summit on Sustainable Development, he said that the challenge now facing UNEP was to follow through on the outcomes of the Summit and to make the environment a central element in integrated solutions to development. One of his goals had been to strive to improve international environmental governance, and the consensus developed and endorsed by the World Summit had been a critical first step. He noted that a significant number of Governments were increasing their financial support for UNEP, and he thanked them for that increased support and the confidence that it indicated. He paid tribute to the people who had been essential to the success of UNEP, mentioning especially Mr. Klaus Töpfer, the Executive Director of UNEP, and his colleagues in the Bureau and the secretariat, and thanked them for their support and their commitment to the cause of the environment.

3. Mr. Shafqat Kakakhel, Deputy Executive Director of UNEP, read out a message to the participants from Mr. Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations. In his message, the Secretary-General pointed out that, five months after the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the current session of the Council/Forum would be charting the implementation of the Johannesburg agreements. He made reference to the recent elections in Kenya, and said that the country was riding a wave of popular optimism and justifiable pride in its recent electoral achievements. The task ahead for UNEP was to keep building on the momentum generated by the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,[1] and by the pledges made earlier the previous year at the International Conference on Financing for Development[2] in Monterrey, Mexico. He said that protecting the environment and fighting poverty were often two sides of the same coin, with mutually reinforcing goals. The challenge for UNEP and the Governing Council was to translate the blueprint provided by the World Summit into a work programme for UNEP, in partnership with Governments, civil society, the private sector and other parts of the United Nations family, so as to realize the promises made at Johannesburg for cleaner air, seas and land. The Secretary-General concluded his message by wishing the participants a most productive session.

4. Mr. Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director of UNEP, welcoming the participants to the twenty-second session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Environment Ministerial Forum, said that he was pleased to welcome them to Kenya shortly after a widely acclaimed, democratic and transparent election process, and he acknowledged the presence of Mr. Newton Kulundu, the new Kenyan Minister for Environment, Natural Resources and Wildlife, and his Assistant Minister, Ms. Wangari Maathai, a former Global 500 award winner. He said that Nairobi was the environment capital of the world and stressed its importance as the United Nations headquarters in Africa. The current international environment was difficult and uncertain, and the world faced accelerating environmental degradation as well as the challenge of minimizing the risks of globalization. It was nevertheless a time of great opportunity, as the international community at the World Summit in Johannesburg had defined a comprehensive agenda for sustainability, and the International Conference on Financing for Development in Monterrey had produced a new and dynamic perspective on financing and international cooperation. The Plan of Implementation adopted at the World Summit was linked with partnerships, and UNEP was accountable for putting it into practice. The first priorities in that

regard were to address poverty, change the patterns of consumption and production to sustainable ones and integrate the work of the environmental conventions. A central challenge of UNEP was also to achieve the Johannesburg theme of "responsible prosperity for all", for which it was necessary to ensure that trade liberalization and globalization worked for the poor. Mr. Töpfer concluded by paying tribute to and thanking the outgoing President of the Governing Council, Mr. David Anderson, saying that UNEP had benefited from his commitment, foresight and guidance, and that he had provided inspirational leadership at a critical juncture. He also expressed his appreciation of the work of two departing members of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, the Ambassador of Colombia, Mr. Germán García-Durán, who was leaving after 10 years in the Nairobi duty station, and the Ambassador of Sweden, Ms. Inga Bjork-Klevby, who had made a great contribution to the international environmental governance process. He also thanked the Ambassador of Brazil, Mr. Whitaker Salles, who had made a great contribution to the work of preparation for the current session of the Governing Council/Global Environment Ministerial Forum.

5. The opening meeting was also addressed by Mr. Arthur Chaskalson, Chief Justice of South Africa and Chair of the Global Judges' Symposium. He welcomed the initiative of UNEP to involve the judiciary in issues of environment and sustainable development. He said that the boundaries of environmental law were expanding rapidly, and it was vital to expand the knowledge base of the judiciary in that area. The Global Judges Symposium (see UNEP/GC.22/INF/24) in Johannesburg had given 120 judges from different legal systems and cultures the opportunity to reflect on their role in upholding the principles of environmental law in the context of sustainable development. Participants at the Symposium had agreed that a constructive relationship should be established between UNEP and the judiciary, with a focus on education, capacity-building and access to justice. A follow-up meeting facilitated by UNEP had been held on 30 and 31 January 2003 in Nairobi, with the participation of some 25 judges from around the globe, together with various observers engaged in promoting environmental law and judicial education. Participants at that meeting had urged UNEP to promote programmes for capacity-building, first undertaking an assessment of country needs so that programmes could be tailored to those needs. UNEP was also asked to facilitate communication between judges, including through the further development of the Internet-based judicial portal that had been set up by UNEP in collaboration with the World Conservation Union (IUCN). Lastly, Mr. Chaskalson informed the meeting that, at the request of UNEP, an advisory committee of judges had been established in order to give substance to cooperation between UNEP and the judiciary.

6. Mr. Newton Kulundu, Minister for Environment, Natural Resources and Wildlife of Kenya, welcomed participants on behalf of the host Government. He said that eradicating poverty and promoting sustainable livelihoods were central to the achievement of sustainable development. The Millennium Declaration[3] had identified the struggle against poverty as the shared responsibility of all and he commended UNEP for including that issue in its work programme. He stressed the new Government of Kenya's commitment to the ideals of proper environmental management to ensure national sustainable development. He emphasized the need to ensure a sustainable balance between economic development and globalization on the one hand, and the protection of the environment on the other. He commended the wide range of efforts launched by UNEP, including joint activities with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) and collaboration between UNEP and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to strengthen international capacity to respond to environmental emergencies. He paid tribute to UNEP's work in clarifying the relationship between trade and the environment and its work in enhancing civil society participation and forging partnerships in environmental matters. He called for countries to increase their payments and ensure timely payment of their pledges to the Environment Fund to allow for effective and timely implementation of UNEP's work programme, and expressed his Government's support for the voluntary indicative scale of contributions.

B. Attendance

7. The following 54 States members of the Governing Council were represented:

Antigua and Barbuda
Argentina
Bahamas
Belgium
Benin
Brazil
Burkina Faso
Canada

Chad
China
Colombia
Congo
Cuba
Czech Republic
Denmark
Egypt
France
Gambia
Germany
Greece
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Italy
Japan
Kenya
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Mexico
Myanmar
Namibia
Netherlands
New Zealand
Nigeria
Pakistan
Poland
Republic of Korea
Romania
Russian Federation
Samoa
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Slovakia
Sudan
Suriname
Switzerland
Syrian Arab Republic
Thailand
Turkey
Uganda
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States of America
Uruguay
Zambia
Zimbabwe

8. The following 93 States not members of the Governing Council but members of the United Nations or members of a specialized agency or of the International Atomic Energy Agency were represented by observers:

Afghanistan
Albania
Algeria
Angola
Australia
Austria
Azerbaijan
Bangladesh
Barbados
Belarus
Belize
Bhutan
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Botswana
Bulgaria
Cambodia
Cameroon
Cape Verde
Chile
Comoros
Costa Rica
Côte d'Ivoire
Croatia
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Djibouti
Dominica
Dominican Republic
Eritrea
Ethiopia
Finland
Gabon
Georgia
Ghana
Guinea-Bissau
Guyana
Honduras
Hungary
Iceland
Iraq
Ireland
Israel
Jamaica
Jordan
Kazakhstan
Kuwait
Kyrgystan
Lao People's Democratic Republic
Latvia
Lesotho
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Madagascar
Malawi
Mali

Malta
Mauritania
Mauritius
Monaco
Mongolia
Morocco
Mozambique
Nepal
Niue
Norway
Panama
Papua New Guinea
Paraguay
Peru
Philippines
Portugal
Rwanda
Saint Lucia
Serbia and Montenegro
Seychelles
Sierra Leone
Slovenia
Somalia
South Africa
Spain
Sri Lanka
Swaziland
Sweden
Togo
Tonga
Trinidad and Tobago
Tunisia
Turkmenistan
Tuvalu
Ukraine
United Arab Emirates
United Republic of Tanzania
Venezuela
Yemen

9. The observers for the Holy See and the Palestinian Authority to UNEP also participated.

10. The following United Nations bodies, Secretariat units and convention secretariats were represented:

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
Secretariat of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal
Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)
Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat (CMS)
Secretariat of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer
Secretariat of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol
Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa
United Nations Centre for Regional Development
United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
United Nations Division for Oceans Affairs and the Law of the Sea
United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)
United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
United Nations Forum on Forests
United Nations Foundation/Better World Fund
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT)
United Nations Office for Project Services
United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

11. The following specialized agencies were represented:

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), International Maritime Organization (IMO)

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
World Health Organization (WHO)
World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
World Trade Organization (WTO).

12. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented:

African Centre for Technology Studies
African Union, Bureau of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat
Caribbean Community Secretariat
Central American Integration System
Commonwealth Secretariat
Council of the European Union
European Community
Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
League of Arab States
New Partnership for Africa's Development
Permanent Commission for the South Pacific
South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme
World Conservation Union (IUCN)
World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF)

13. In addition, 51 non-governmental and civil society organizations were represented by observers.

C. Election of officers

14. At the opening meeting, on 3 February, the Council elected the following officers by acclamation:

President:	Mr. Ruhakana Rugunda (Uganda)
Vice-Presidents:	Mr. Suk Jo Lee (Republic of Korea) Mr. Juan Pablo Bonilla (Colombia) Ms. Tanya van Gool (Netherlands)
Rapporteur:	Mr. Vaclav Hubinger (Czech Republic)

15. Following his election, the incoming President thanked all those who were participating in the meeting, and assured them that he would do his utmost to ensure that the twenty-second session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum would accommodate their views and interests, and that these would be reflected in the decisions of the meeting. He pledged to do his best to stay true to the principles that had guided his predecessors in the difficult task of charting the way forward, with focus on implementation and action as the primary concern. He thanked the Government and people of Kenya for their hospitality and congratulated them on the recent democratic elections and peaceful transfer of power. He noted that the Governing Council/Global Environment Ministerial Forum was now recognized as the key global environment forum. UNEP had a catalytic role to play in enlisting support from people worldwide in shared efforts to secure a clean and healthy environment for present and future generations. The current meeting was taking place five months after the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the outcomes of which had directed precisely how sustainable development should be tackled. Participants now had the opportunity to discuss the way forward in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit. There was an enormous responsibility to build upon the goodwill and partnerships that had emerged from the Summit, for which UNEP must develop a visible, measurable and action-oriented programme.

D. Credentials of representatives

16. In accordance with rule 17, paragraph 2 of the Rules of Procedure, the Bureau examined the credentials of the representatives attending the Council/Forum. Representatives of 54 of the 58 member States had attended. The credentials of 28 of those had been formally notified and had been found to be in order, and the Bureau so reported to the Council. The Council/Forum approved the Bureau's report at the 10th meeting, on 7 February.

E. Agenda

17. At the opening meeting, the Council/Forum adopted the following agenda for the session on the basis of the provisional agenda approved by the Council/Forum at its twenty-first session (UNEP/GC.22/1):

1. Opening of the session.
2. Organization of the session:
   (a) Election of officers;
   (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session.
3. Credentials of representatives.
4. Policy issues:
   (a) State of the environment;
   (b) Emerging policy issues;
   (c) Coordination and cooperation within and outside the United Nations, including non-governmental organizations;
   (d) The role of civil society;
   (e) International environmental governance.
5. Follow-up of General Assembly resolutions.
6. Outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.
7. Linkages among and support to environmental and environment-related conventions.
8. Contribution to future sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development.
9. Programme, the Environment Fund and administrative and other budgetary matters.
10. Provisional agenda, date and place of:
    (a) The eighth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum;
    (b) Twenty-third session of the Council/Forum.
11. Other matters.
12. Adoption of the report.
13. Closure of the session.

F. Organization of the work of the session/Forum

18. At the 1st plenary meeting of the session, the Council/Forum considered and approved the organization of work of the session in the light of the recommendations contained in the annotated agenda and organization of work (UNEP/GC.22/1/Add.1/Rev.2) suggested by the Executive Director.

19. Also at its 1st plenary meeting, the Council decided to establish, in accordance with rule 60 of its Rules of Procedure, sessional Committees, namely a Committee of the Whole and a drafting group. The Committee of the Whole would consider primarily agenda items 4 (a) (State of the environment), 4 (c) (Coordination and cooperation within and outside the United Nations, including non-governmental organizations), 4 (d) (The role of civil society), 4 (e) (International environmental governance), 5 (Follow-up of General Assembly resolutions, 8 (Contribution to future sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development) and 9 (Programme, the Environment Fund and administrative and other budgetary matters). The Committee of the Whole would meet concurrently with the plenary and was expected to conclude its work on Thursday, 6 February. The Council also decided that all other substantive agenda items would be taken up directly in the plenary. The decisions adopted by the Council/Forum at its twenty-second session are contained in the annex to the present report.

20. Following the adoption of the agenda at the 1st plenary meeting, the President invited interventions from representatives of various groups.

21. Mr. Mohammed Chraibi, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Morocco to UNEP, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, called for the expeditious and balanced implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and welcomed the reaffirmation in the Summit Plan of Implementation of the importance of economic development, social development and environmental protection as interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars of sustainable development. Poverty eradication, changing production and consumption patterns and the protection of the natural resource base remained the key requirements for the achievement of sustainable development. The Group of 77 fully supported the strengthening of the existing mandate of UNEP and the need to improve its finances. The implementation of sustainable development as envisioned in Agenda 21[4] and the outcomes of the World Summit required strengthened institutional mechanisms, enhanced cooperation between developed and developing countries and strong political commitment by the international community. He called for early operationalization of the special climate change fund and the least developed countries' fund as agreed at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[5] and strongly urged developed countries to comply with internationally agreed overseas development assistance targets and with commitments for new and additional resources, transfer of technology and capacity-building. He welcomed the initiative of the Executive Director of UNEP to focus Governing Council meetings on regional implementation of the World Summit, the focus on Africa being in line with the declaration adopted by the United Nations General Assembly.[6] on the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). He recognized the valuable contribution of civil society to the work of UNEP, and requested that UNEP take effective steps to strengthen its activities in the area of changing unsustainable consumption and production activities. In closing, he called for concrete measures to be taken to alleviate the deteriorating environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian territories, including those contained in the recommendations of the desk study report presented by the Executive Director (UNEP)/GC.22/INF/31).

22. The opening meeting was also addressed by Ms. Vasiliki Papandreou, Minister for Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works, speaking on behalf of the European Union and its member States. She said that the European Union strongly believed that while UNEP had a decisive role to play in the implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development, future work should avoid duplication and overlapping, hence a need for reinforcing synergies and active coordination with the United Nations system and the Bretton Woods institutions. The European Union was committed to working closely with UNEP and other United Nations bodies to achieve the targets and goals agreed in the World Summit. She said she wished to draw attention to some issues that the European Union considered as urgent priorities. These were, the need effectively to change unsustainable consumption and production patterns, the need to make progress on the international management of chemicals, and the need to enhance governance,

including through increased participation by civil society organizations. The European Union was also deeply concerned that the maritime transport of certain substances still generated significant risks for the coastal and marine environment, as evidenced by the recent accident off the Spanish coast. She also called upon countries to engage in greater efforts to halt the loss of biological diversity, both locally and globally, because that loss was increasingly undermining sustainable development and the social and cultural integrity of the earth's population. The European Union would remain progressive and constructive to ensure results-orientated follow-up at the international level, based on good governance, and would be supportive of regional cooperation in all matters of implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit.

G. Report of the ministerial consultations

23. The report of the ministerial consultations, held on 5 and 6 February, is contained in annex II to the proceedings. At the 10th plenary meeting, the President presented his summary of the ministerial consultations (UNEP/GC.22/L.6). The President's summary of the ministerial consultations is contained in the appendix to annex II of the proceedings.

H. Report of the Committee of the Whole

24. The Committee of the Whole held seven meetings under the chairmanship of Ms. Tanya van Gool, Vice-President of the Council, from 3 to 7 February, to consider the agenda items assigned to it. The Council/Forum took note of the report of the Committee of the Whole at the 11th plenary meeting, on 7 February. The report is contained in annex III to the proceedings.

II. MATTERS REQUIRING THE SPECIAL ATTENTION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND/OR THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

A. Date and place of the eighth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum and the twenty-third session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum

25. At its 10th plenary meeting, on 7 February 2003, the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum decided to hold its eighth special session in Seoul, from 29 to 31 March 2004 and its twenty-third session in Nairobi, from 21 to 25 February 2005.

B. Environment in the occupied Palestinian territories

26. By decision 22/1 V, the Council/Forum welcomed the desk study outlining the state of the environment in the occupied Palestinian territories presented by the Executive Director and decided to request him, within the mandate of UNEP, to implement the recommendations of the desk study. It also requested the Executive Director to make UNEP available to act as facilitator, and also an impartial moderator when requested by both parties, to assist in solving urgent environmental problems with a view to achieving common goals. It further requested him to continue coordinating the activities of UNEP in the area.

C. Poverty and the environment in Africa

27. By its decision 22/10, the Council/Forum decided to request the Executive Director to develop a strategy for the implementation of the actions committed to in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development on poverty eradication, within the mandate of UNEP.

28. It also decided to request the Executive Director, in collaboration with UNDP and other organizations, in particular the NEPAD and AMCEN, to explore opportunities for greater cooperation with the African Union on NEPAD's initiative and to provide input on the linkages between poverty and the environment. It further decided to request the Executive Director to operationalize the conceptual framework on poverty and ecosystems and test the approach through country studies with a focus on Africa, working through NEPAD.

D. Sustainable development of the Arctic

29. By its decision 22/11, the Council/Forum decided to request the Executive Director to provide continuous assessments and early warning on emerging issues related to the Arctic environment, in particular its impact on the global environment.

E. Brussels Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010

30. By its decision 22/12, the Council/Forum decided that UNEP should continue to give special attention to the least developed countries as well as to landlocked developing countries and small island developing States in its programme activities, with a focus on the effective implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action within the UNEP mandate. It also invited the Executive Director to take the necessary steps to ensure that implementation of the Programme of Action was fully included in the programme activities of UNEP as well as in its intergovernmental processes within its mandate and available resources.

F. Small island developing States

31. By decision 22/13, the Council/Forum decided to strengthen the institutional capacity of small island developing States to effectively achieve the sustainable development goals outlined in the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States through the provision of dedicated technical and financial support. It also decided to provide focused support for the development and execution of partnership initiatives presented within the context of implementation of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

G. Role of the United Nations Environment Programme in strengthening regional activities and cooperation in the Economic Cooperation Organization subregion

32. By decision 22/14, the Council/Forum decided to request the Executive Director to support and promote the subregional environmental initiatives of the Economic Cooperation Organization region. It also decided to request the Executive Director to promote the work of the respective regional offices and increase their financial capacities for fulfilling the goals of capacity-building and technology transfer to the Economic Cooperation Organization member countries.

33. It further decided to request the Executive Director to establish and reinforce linkages and partnerships among other relevant United Nations bodies, development banks, and Bretton Woods institutions to enable the regional offices and Economic Cooperation Organization member countries to deliver the relevant programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme in the region effectively.

H. International year of deserts and desertification

34. By its decision 22/15, the Council/Forum decided to invite the General Assembly to consider declaring an international year of deserts and desertification as soon as possible and designating the United Nations Environment Programme as focal point of the international year of deserts and desertification in conjunction with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa and United Nations Development Programme.

35. It also decided to request the Secretary-General to designate a special representative for the international year of deserts and desertification, in the event that the international year is declared.

I. Governance and law

36. By its decision 22/17, the Council/Forum decided to request the Executive Director, in the framework of the implementation of paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 57/251, to: invite Governments to submit written comments on the issue of establishing universal membership for the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum by 31 October 2003;and submit a report incorporating those comments from Governments to the eighth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, in 2004, for its consideration.

37. It also decided to request the Executive Director, in collaboration with UNDP, GEF and other relevant organizations, in compliance with decision SS.VII/1, paragraphs 33 and 34, to develop an intergovernmental strategic plan for technology support and capacity-building and submit a draft strategic plan to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its eighth special session in 2004. The draft strategic plan should be based on input from States, both at the regional and the national level, to incorporate national and regional priorities.

J. Status of international conventions and protocols in the field of the environment

38. By its decision 22/17 C, the Council/Forum decided to authorize the Executive Director to transmit chapter VI of the report of the Executive Director and the note of the Executive Director, on its behalf, together with comments made by delegations thereon, especially on the need for institutional capacity-building, to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session, in accordance with resolution 3436 (XXX).

K. Implementation of the Montevideo Programme III

39. By its decision 22/17 D, the Council/Forum decided to request the Executive Director to provide to the Governing Council at its twenty-third session a comprehensive report on the implementation of the Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law for the First decade of the Twenty-first Century (Montevideo Programme III).

L. Civil society

40. By its decision 22/18, the Council/Forum decided that the Committee of Permanent Representatives should continue its work as mandated by decision SS.VII/5 on enhancing the engagement of civil society in the work of UNEP in considering the amendment of rule 69 of the rules of procedure and any consequential amendments of the rules of procedure, taking into account the evolving relationship between civil society and the United Nations system and the ongoing United Nations reform process.

M. Environment Fund budget: proposed biennial programme and support budget for 2004-2005

41. By its decision 22/20, the Council/Forum decided to reconfirm the authority of the Executive Director to reallocate resources between programmes up to a maximum of 20 per cent of the actual appropriation to which the resources are reallocated. It also decided to authorize the Executive Director to enter into forward commitments not exceeding $20 million for Fund programme activities for the biennium 2006-2007.

N. Regional implementation of the programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme

42. By its decision 22/21, the Council/Forum decided to request the Executive Director to ensure adequate capacity for the regional offices, for the effective delivery of the UNEP programme of work and to respond adequately to the call of the World Summit on Sustainable Development to strengthen and support regional and subregional initiatives and actions.

O. Revision of the financial rules of the fund of the United Nations Environment Programme, of the General Procedures Governing the Operations of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme, of the General Guidelines for the Execution of Projects and the Institutional and Financial Arrangements for International Environment Cooperation

43. By its decision 22/22, the Council/Forum decided to approve revisions of: the Financial Rules of the United Nations Environment Programme; the General Procedures governing the Operations of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme; the general guidelines for the execution of projects; and the institutional and financial arrangements for international environment cooperation.

P. Loan from the Environment Fund financial reserve

44. By its decision 22/23, the Council/Forum decided to request the Executive Director to report to the Committee of Permanent Representatives on further progress of loan drawdowns and the status of the construction project.

III. ADOPTION OF DECISIONS*

45. At its 10th, 11th and 12th plenary meetings, on 7 February, the Council/Forum adopted a total of 41 decisions from 41 subject areas, contained in the annex to the present report, as follows:

Early warning, assessment and monitoring (decision 22/1)

I. Strengthening the scientific base of the United Nations Environment Programme

II. Global assessment of the state of the marine environment

III. United Nations Environment Programme - World Conservation Monitoring Centre

IV. Post-conflict environmental assessments

V. Environment in the Occupied Palestinian Territories

46. At the 10th and 11th plenary meetings, on 7 February, the Council/Forum adopted the draft decision on the above subjects on the basis of texts submitted by the drafting group, the Committee of the Whole and the President (UNEP/GC.22/L.3, UNEP/GC.22/CW/L.3 and UNEP/GC.22/L.4).

Water (decision 22/2)

I. Water policy and strategy of the United Nations Environment Programme (decision 22/6)

II. Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities

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* For the text of the decisions adopted by the Governing Council at its twenty-second session, see the annex to the present report.

III. Regional Seas Programme

A. Regional seas strategies for sustainable development
B. North-West Pacific Action Plan
C. North-East Pacific Action Plan – Antigua Guatemala Convention
D. Abidjan Convention for Cooperation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region and Nairobi Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Eastern African Region
E. South-East Pacific Action Plan – Lima Convention

IV. Coral reefs

V. Marine safety and protection of the marine environment from accidental pollution

47. At the 10th and 11th plenary meetings, on 7 February, the Council/Forum adopted the draft decision on the above subject on the basis of the compilation of draft decisions submitted by the drafting group and the Committee of the Whole (UNEP/GC.22/L.3 and Add.1 and UNEP/GC.22/CW/L.2/Add.1/Rev.1).

Climate and atmosphere (decision 22/3)

I. Adaptation to climate change

II. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

48. At the 10th and 11th plenary meetings, on 7 February, the Council/Forum adopted the draft decision on the above subject on the basis of the compilation of draft decisions submitted by the drafting group and the Committee of the Whole (UNEP/GC.22/L.3 and UNEP/GC.22/CW/L.2).

Chemicals (decision 22/4)

I. Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade

II. Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

III. Lead

IV. Strategic approach to international chemicals management

V. Mercury programme

49. At the 11th plenary meeting, on 7 February, the Council/Forum adopted the draft decision on the above subject on the basis of the compilation of draft decisions submitted by the Contact Group on Chemicals (UNEP/GC.22/L.7).

Enhancing the role of the United Nations Environment Progamme on forest-related issues (decision 22/5)

50. At the 11th plenary meeting, on 7 February, the Council/Forum adopted the draft decision on the above subject on the basis of the compilation of draft decisions submitted by the Committee of the Whole (UNEP/GC.22/CW/L.2).

Promotion of sustainable consumption and production patterns (decision 22/6)

51. At the 12th plenary meeting, on 7 February, the Council/Forum adopted the draft decision on the above subject on the basis of a text submitted by the contact group on sustainable consumption and production.

Engaging business and industry (decision 22/7)

52. At the 10th plenary meeting, on 7 February, the Council/Forum adopted the draft decision on the above subject on the basis of the compilation of draft decisions submitted by the drafting group (UNEP/GC.22/L.3).

Further improvement of environmental emergency prevention, preparedness, assessment, response and mitigation (decision 22/8)

53. At the 10th plenary meeting, on 7 February, the Council/Forum adopted the draft decision on the above subject on the basis of the compilation of draft decisions submitted by the drafting group (UNEP/GC.22/L.3).

Support for Africa (decision 22/9)

54. At the 10th plenary meeting, on 7 February, the Council/Forum adopted the draft decision on the above subject on the basis of the compilation of draft decisions submitted by the drafting group (UNEP/GC.22/L.3).

Poverty and environment in Africa (decision 22/10)

55. At the 11th plenary meeting, on 7 February, the Council/Forum adopted the draft decision on the above subject on the basis of the compilation of draft decisions submitted by the Committee of the Whole (UNEP/GC.22/CW/L.2 and Corr.1).

Sustainable development of the Arctic (decision 22/11)

56. At the 10th plenary meeting, on 7 February, the Council/Forum adopted the draft decision on the above subject on the basis of the compilation of draft decisions submitted by the drafting group (UNEP/GC.22/L.3).

Brussels Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 (decision 22/12)

57. At the 11th plenary meeting, on 7 February, the Council/Forum adopted the draft decision on the above subject on the basis of the compilation of draft decisions submitted by the drafting group (UNEP/GC.22/L.3/Add.3).

Small island developing States (decision 22/13)

58. At the 11th plenary meeting, on 7 February, the Council/Forum adopted the draft decision on the above subject on the basis of the compilation of draft decisions submitted by the Committee of the Whole (UNEP/GC.22/CW/L.2).

Role of the United Nations Environment Programme in strengthening regional activities and cooperation in the Economic Cooperation Organization subregion (decision 22/14)

59. At the 11th plenary meeting, on 7 February, the Council/Forum adopted the draft decision on the above subject on the basis of the compilation of draft decisions submitted by the Committee of the Whole (UNEP/GC.22/CW/L.2).

International year of deserts and desertification (decision 22/15)

60. At the 11th plenary meeting, on 7 February, the Council/Forum adopted the draft decision on the above subject on the basis of the compilation of draft decisions submitted by the Committee of the Whole (UNEP/GC.22/CW/L.2/Add.1/Rev.1).

61. Following the adoption of the decision, the representative of Burkina Faso stated that the term desertification should be understood in the context of the definition contained in the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, comprising arid, semi-arid and dry areas.

Environment and cultural diversity (decision 22/16)

62. At the 11th plenary meeting, on 7 February, the Council/Forum adopted the draft decision on the above subject on the basis of the compilation of draft decisions submitted by the drafting group (UNEP/GC.22/L.3/Add.1), with an amendment to the third preambular paragraph to align the language to that used in paragraph 44 of the report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

Governance and law (decision 22/17)

I. Follow-up to General Assembly resolution 57/251 on the report of the seventh special session of the United Nations Environment Programme Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum

II. Implementation of the Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law by the First Decade of the Twenty-first Century

A. Follow-up to the Global Judges Symposium: focusing on capacity-building in the area of environment law
B. Enhancing the application of principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development
C. Status of international conventions and protocols in the field of the environment
D. Implementation of Montevideo Programme III

63. At the 10th and 12th plenary meetings, on 7 February, the Council/Forum adopted the draft decision on the above subject on the basis of the compilation of draft decisions submitted by the drafting group (UNEP/GC.22/L.3 and Add.1) as amended to take into account the results of the deliberations of the Working Group on Budget.

Civil society (decision 22/18)

I. Amendment to rule 69 of the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council

II. Long-term strategy on engagement and involvement of young people in environmental issues

III. Long-term strategy for sport and the environment

64. At the 10th and 11th plenary meetings, on 7 February, the Council/Forum adopted the draft decision on the above subject on the basis of the compilation of draft decisions submitted by the drafting group (UNEP/GC.22/L.3 and Add.2).

Amendments to the instrument for the establishment of the restructured Global Environment Facility (decision 22/19)

65. At the 10th plenary meeting, on 7 February, the Council/Forum adopted the draft decision on the above subject on the basis of the compilation of draft decisions submitted by the drafting group (UNEP/GC.22/L.3).

Environment Fund budget: proposed biennial programme and support budget for 2004-2005 (decision 22/20)

66. At the 12th plenary meeting, on 7 February, the Council/Forum adopted the draft decision on the above subject on the basis of a text submitted by the Working Group on Budget.

67. Following the adoption of the decision, statements were made by the United States of America, the United Kingdom and Morocco (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China).

68. In the context of the approval of the programme of work for the 2004-2005 biennium, attention was drawn to the footnote to operative paragraph 1, whereby the programme was approved but concerns could be submitted by Member States to the Executive Director in writing within six weeks of the conclusion of the twenty-second session. Whereas speakers representing the overwhelming majority of States members of the Council/Forum, including the states members of the European Union and the Group of 77, expressed firm support for both the budget itself and the programme of work, noting that both had been rigorously scrutinized by the Committee of Permanent Representatives during the intersessional period and by the Council/Forum itself at its current session, the representative of one major contributing State expressed dissatisfaction with both the programme of work and its subprogramme narratives on the grounds that they contained activities which did not fall with the UNEP mandate and diverted resources away from the Programme's core strength. In the opinion of that representative, the Council/Forum had been negligent in approving them. Details of those concerns would be submitted to the Executive Director pursuant to the footnote.

Regional implementation of the programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme (decision 22/21)

69. At the 11th plenary meeting, on 7 February, the Council/Forum adopted the draft decision on the above subject on the basis of the compilation of draft decisions submitted by the Committee of the Whole (UNEP/GC.22/CW/L.2).

Legislative and Financial Texts regarding the United Nations Environment Programme and the Environment Fund:

Revision of the financial rules of the fund of the United Nations Environment Programme, of the General Procedures Governing the Operations of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme, of the General Guidelines for the Execution of Projects and the Institutional and Financial Arrangements for International Environment Cooperation (decision 22/22)

70. At the 10th plenary meeting, on 7 February, the Council/Forum adopted the draft decision on the above subject on the basis of the compilation of draft decisions submitted by the drafting group (UNEP/GC.22/L.3).

Administrative matters (decision 22/23)

I. Management trust funds and counterpart (earmarked) contributions

II. Loan from the Environment Fund financial reserve

71. At the 10th plenary meeting, on 7 February, the Council/Forum adopted the draft decision on the above subject on the basis of the compilation of draft decisions submitted by the drafting group (UNEP/GC.22/L.3).

Provisional agenda, date and place of the eighth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Programme and the twenty-third session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (decision 22/24)

72. At its 10th plenary meeting, on 7 February, the Council/Forum adopted the draft proposal by the Bureau on the provisional agenda, date and place of the eighth special session and the twenty-third regular session of the Governing Council/Ministerial Environment Forum (UNEP/GC.23/L.5). At the 11th plenary meeting, the President informed the Council/Forum that the twenty-third session would be held from 21 to 25 February 2005.

Annex

DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE GOVERNING COUNCIL/GLOBAL MINISTERIAL ENVIRONMENT FORUM AT ITS TWENTY-SECOND SESSION

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22/1. Early warning, assessment and monitoring

I

Strengthening the scientific base of the United Nations Environment Programme

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, and in particular section I, paragraphs 2 (a), (b), (d) and (e) thereof,

Recalling also relevant Governing Council decisions pertaining to data, information, monitoring, assessment and early warning, (including 18/27 C of 26 May 1995, the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme,[7] 20/1 of 4 February 1999, 20/4 of 4 February 1999, and the Malmö Ministerial Declaration[8]), and in particular decision SS.VII/1 on international environmental governance and on capacity-building, paragraphs 8 (e), 11 (h) (i) and (ii), 24 and 31 thereof,

Noting the provisions contained in paragraphs 108 to 112 of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development on the role of science, technology and assessment as a basis for decision-making on environment for sustainable development,

Commending the Executive Director on the production of the third Global Environment Outlook report, following the full participatory, consultative approach as requested in Governing Council decision 20/1 of 4 February 1999, and its publication in May 2002, prior to the World Summit on Sustainable Development,

Recognizing the benefits of South-South and North-South cooperation, partnerships and networking inherent in the integrated environmental assessment process of the United Nations Environment Programme and the enhanced capacities of national and regional institutions to carry out assessments and supportive data management as a result of the capacity-building undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme,

Underscoring the importance of international cooperation among the organizations of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations, Governments, the scientific community, non-governmental organizations, private enterprises and appropriate national institutions in exchanging information and scientific knowledge on environmental matters, inter alia, through the United Nations system-wide Earthwatch,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on strengthening the scientific base of the United Nations Environment Programme by improving its ability to monitor and assess global environmental change, including the establishment of an intergovernmental panel on global environmental change (UNEP/GC.22/4/Add.1),

A

Strengthening the scientific base of the United Nations Environment Programme

1. Reiterates that further consideration should be given to strengthening the scientific base of the United Nations Environment Programme by improving its ability to monitor and assess global environmental change;

2. Invites Governments, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, and scientific institutions to submit to the Executive Director by a date specified by him their views on the following questions:

(a) What are the likely gaps and types of assessment needs with respect to the environment and environmental change?

(b) How are the United Nations Environment Programme and other organizations currently meeting those assessment needs?

(c) What options exist with respect to meeting any unfulfilled needs that fall within the role and mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme?

3. Further invites those providing views to address, inter alia, the following considerations:

(a) Scientific credibility, saliency, legitimacy and relevance in the assessment processes;

(b) Interaction between science and policy development;

(c) The role of existing institutions;

(d) Possible options including strengthening existing institutions and mechanisms and the establishment of an intergovernmental panel on global environmental change;

(e) Links and sectoral integration;

(f) Duplication, cooperation, complementarity and added value to the work of other assessment processes, international agencies and the multilateral environmental agreements;

(g) Cost-effectiveness and efficiency; and

(h) Developing country participation and capacity-building;

4. Requests the Executive Director to make submissions publicly available and to prepare a synthesis report for the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its eighth special session;

5. Further requests the Executive Director, following the issuance of the report, to facilitate an intergovernmental consultation taking into account available funding, transparency, regional balance and adequate developing country participation, in preparation for the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its eighth special session.

B

Early warning and assessment process of the United Nations Environment Programme

1. Requests the Executive Director to continue keeping under review the world environmental situation, and providing early warning on emerging environmental issues of wide international significance by:

(a) Producing annual global environment outlook statements on the environment, inter alia, highlighting significant environmental events and achievements during the year and raising awareness of emerging issues from scientific research and other sources;

(b) Preparing the comprehensive Global Environment Outlook report series, following the full participatory and consultative Global Environment Outlook approach, every five years, with the next report for 2007;

(c) Supporting sub-global integrated environmental assessment processes, including the production of regional, subregional and national environment outlook reports, in partnership with relevant authorities and institutions;

(d) Providing early warnings of emerging threats of international significance;

(e) Supporting thematic assessments on emerging or cross-cutting issues;

(f) Cooperating with Governments and relevant organizations to develop up-to-date and harmonized integrated databases and indicators that provide the basis for early warning, monitoring and assessment;

(g) Promoting networking with relevant institutions to enhance the exchange and dissemination of environmental data and information, including through the use of information and communication technologies;

2. Urges Governments to provide additional funding for the strengthening of targeted capacity-building by the United Nations Environment Programme in integrated environmental assessment and related data, information and knowledge management, and the identification of emerging issues at global, regional and national levels.

II

Global assessment of the state of the marine environment

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 21/13 of 9 February 2001, by which the Executive Director in cooperation with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and other appropriate United Nations organizations, the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Regional Seas Programme, was requested to explore the feasibility of establishing a regular process for assessing the state of the marine environment, with active involvement by Governments and regional agreements, building on ongoing assessment programmes,

Noting that the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development[1] called, in its paragraph 36 (b), for the establishment by 2004 of "a regular process under the United Nations for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects, both current and foreseeable, building on existing regional assessments",

Noting that the state of the marine environment is significantly affected by activities in coastal areas,

Welcoming the fact that outcomes of the consultations organized by the United Nations Environment Programme in response to Governing Council decision 21/13, in particular the consultative meetings held in Reykjavik and Bremen, Federal Republic of Germany, on 12 to 14 September 2001 and 18 to 20 March 2002 respectively, have contributed significantly to the target set out in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,

Welcoming the decision of the General Assembly under its resolution 57/141 of 12 December 2002 on Oceans and the law of the sea, to establish "a regular process under the United Nations for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects both current and foreseeable, building on existing regional assessments",

Further welcoming the request to the Secretary-General, in close collaboration with Member States, relevant organizations and agencies and programmes of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Environment Programme, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the International Maritime Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Health Organization and the World Meteorological Organization, and the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, other competent intergovernmental organizations and relevant non-governmental organizations, "to prepare proposals on modalities for a regular process for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, drawing, inter alia, upon the work of the United Nations Environment Programme pursuant to Governing Council decision 21/13, and taking into account the recently completed review of the Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental

Protection, and to submit those proposals to the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly for its consideration and decision, including on the convening of a possible intergovernmental meeting",

Considering the need to link science and policy-making and in that context to promote intergovernmental cooperation, mobilize the scientific community and foster inter-agency cooperation in support of a regular process for reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment,

Stressing that consideration should be given to the need to ensure that sustainable capacity-building in developing countries is established as an integrated part of the assessment process as identified in the consultation process,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the global assessment of the marine environment (UNEP/GC.22/2 and Add.5.),

1. Requests the Executive Director to make the necessary arrangements for the active participation and appropriate contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to the preparatory process for the establishment of a regular process for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment as called for in General Assembly resolution 57/141;

2. Calls on the Executive Director to identify existing United Nations Environment Programme marine assessment budgetary and programmatic resources that can be applied to support the regular process for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment;

3. Urges regional seas programmes and other regional seas agreements to participate and contribute as appropriate to the process called for in General Assembly resolution 57/141;

4. Requests the Executive Director to report to the Secretary-General in 2003 as well as to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its eighth special session on the United Nations Environment Programme's contribution to the regular process called for in General Assembly resolution 57/141;

5. Authorizes the Executive Director to seek extrabudgetary resources, including through the establishment of a trust fund, to support the participation of developing countries in a regular process for reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment;

6. Urges Governments to contribute to the trust fund, once established;

7. Calls upon Governments to focus particular attention on coastal areas in collaboration with appropriate regional institutions involved in the coastal areas.

III

United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre

The Governing Council,

Recognizing the longstanding relationship and cooperation on biodiversity information and assessment work between United Nations Environment Programme, the biodiversity-related conventions (particularly the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat, the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage) and the World Conservation Monitoring Centre in Cambridge, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, which was initially under tripartite United Nations Environment Programme-World Conservation Union - World Wide Fund for Nature sponsorship between 1988 and 2000,

Noting with satisfaction the successful integration of the World Conservation Monitoring Centre into the United Nations Environment Programme's biodiversity-related activities since the Centre's change of status in June 2000 to that of a specialist biodiversity information and assessment centre of the United Nations Environment Programme and the fact that the Centre derives the majority of its revenue from non-United Nations Environment Programme sources,

Supporting the Executive Director's policy of broadening the Centre's role to provide a range of biodiversity-related services to the United Nations Environment Programme, the biodiversity-related conventions and their constituent party States, and other bodies in the non-governmental and private sectors, and stressing the importance of partnerships and capacity-building of national biodiversity centres and networks,

Noting with approval the review by the Centre, the World Conservation Union–World Commission on Protected Areas and other stakeholders of the World Database on Protected Areas and of the process for maintaining and updating the United Nations List of National Parks and Protected Areas,

Agreeing that the United Nations Economic and Social Council resolution of 1959, subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly in 1962, needs to be renewed and updated,

1. Requests the Executive Director to continue to support the development of the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre, including its work in providing data and information of the highest quality and accessibility and interoperability, in cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity and consistent with the need to monitor progress towards meeting biodiversity-related objectives set by the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development; [1]

2. Requests the Executive Director, subject to availability of voluntary contributions, to establish a network of collaborating centres in developing countries to cooperate with the Centre and to assist them in undertaking relevant parts of their work programme;

3. Endorses the strengthening of the World Database on Protected Areas, including linking it with other databases on biodiversity and ecology; establishment of a global consortium; and the strengthening of the relationship between the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Conservation Union on global protected area issues through a specific memorandum of understanding;

4. Requests the Executive Director, working in collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, to seek a renewed mandate for the United Nations list process from the Economic and Social Council/General Assembly that reflects the role of the United Nations Environment Programme and its agreement with the World Conservation Union on new partnership arrangements for the World Database on Protected Areas.

IV

Post-conflict environmental assessments

The Governing Council,

Concerned about the adverse impacts of armed conflicts on the environment and eventually on human health,

Aware of the need to conduct rapid but reliable environmental assessments following conflicts, thereby ensuring the inclusion of environmental activities in the reconstruction phase,

Acknowledging that post-conflict environmental assessments, when made immediately after a conflict, assist in reducing the future risks for human health and the environment by giving correct data to the local population and to decision makers, by proposing action needed for clean-up, and by reducing uncertainty among the population regarding health risks from the polluted environment,

Noting with appreciation that the Executive Director has successfully launched several post-conflict environmental assessments since 1999, and that these were conducted in close cooperation with the local authorities and the relevant organizations of the United Nations system,

Noting that the post-conflict assessments by the United Nations Environment Programme to date have been fully funded by extrabudgetary voluntary contributions,

1. Welcomes the action taken by the Executive Director in the area of post-conflict environmental assessments, including the establishment of the Post-Conflict Assessment Unit;

2. Commends the role that the United Nations Environment Programme has played in undertaking post-conflict assessments, including its role in promoting clean-up of environmental hot spots, in supporting the environmental activities of Governments in post-conflict situations, in raising awareness of conflict-related environmental risks, and in integrating the post-conflict environmental activities as part of the United Nations humanitarian assistance and part of the reconstruction efforts to countries and regions;

3. Requests the Executive Director to further strengthen the ability of the United Nations Environment Programme to assess environmental impacts in post-conflict situations;

4. Calls upon Governments in a position to do so to support countries or regions in need of post-conflict environmental assessments;

5. Invites Governments and all other parties concerned, where appropriate, to provide the United Nations Environment Programme with such assistance as may be required in conducting post-conflict environmental assessments;

6. Requests the Executive Director to make the necessary arrangements in order to enable the United Nations Environment Programme to conduct post-conflict environmental assessment at the request of the concerned State or States to be assessed as well as to report to the relevant United Nations bodies and commissions for further follow-up;

7. Requests the Executive Director to continue to inform Governments of current post-conflict environmental assessment activities and to report on the implementation of the present decision to the Governing Council at its twenty-third session.

V

Environment in the occupied Palestinian territories

The Governing Council

Recalling its decisions 20/2 of February 1999, 21/16 of 9 February 2001 and SS.VII/7 of 15 February 2002 on the environmental situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories,

Gravely concerned over the continuing deterioration and destruction of the environment in the Occupied Palestinian Territories,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director as contained in documents UNEP/GC.22/2/Add.6 and UNEP/GC.22/INF/31,

Noting that the Executive Director visited the area in July 2002 where he met with the two parties concerned and established a framework and the modalities of the desk study requested by the Governing Council,

Noting further that the Executive Director designated a team of experts from the United Nations Environment Programme to prepare the desk study outlining the state of the environment in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, and identifying major areas of environmental damage requiring urgent attention,

1. Welcomes the desk study outlining the state of the environment in the Occupied Palestinian Territories presented by the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.22/INF/31), including the recommendations contained therein;

2. Expresses its appreciation to the team of experts for their invaluable efforts in the preparation of the desk study, and to the environmental authorities in the area for their constructive cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme;

3. Requests the Executive Director, within the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, to implement the recommendations of the desk study;

4. Also requests the Executive Director to make the United Nations Environment Programme available to act as a facilitator, and also an impartial moderator when requested by both parties, to assist in solving urgent environmental problems with a view to achieving common goals;

5. Further requests the Executive Director to continue coordinating the activities of the United Nations Environment Programme in the area, including:

(a) Facilitate identifying technical and financial solutions to implement the recommendations;

(b) Promote capacity-building programmes;

(c) Encourage technology transfer;

(d) Promote the participation of the Palestinian Authority in relevant meetings and processes of multilateral environmental agreements;

6. Calls upon Governments and international organizations to support the rehabilitation of the environment and reconstruction of damaged environmental infrastructure, and to thus assist the environmental authorities concerned in their efforts to address urgent environmental needs in the Occupied Palestinian Territories;

7. Invites all the parties concerned to cooperate with the Executive Director in the implementation of the present decision;

8. Requests the Executive Director to report on the implementation of the present decision to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its twenty-third session.

10th and 11th meetings
7 February 2003

22/2. Water

I

Water policy and strategy of the United Nations Environment Programme

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 21/11 of 9 February 2002 requesting the Executive Director to identify key policy issues for the environmental aspects of water arising from the activities undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme in line with the decision of the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme,[7] the Malmö Ministerial Declaration[8] and the outcome of the comprehensive review of the implementation of Agenda 21[4] for the purpose of proposing options to the Governing Council at its twenty-second session,

Taking note of the report of the Executive Director on actions taken within the framework of Governing Council decision 21/11 (UNEP/GC.22/INF/21) as well as a review by the Executive Director of key policy issues arising from the implementation of the water policy and strategy (UNEP/GC.22/INF/35),

Noting with appreciation the measures taken by the Executive Director to implement Governing Council decision 21/11,

Expressing its appreciation to the Executive Director for the progress made in the implementation of the Global International Waters Project, the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, the Regional Seas Programme, water-related activities on water and sanitation of the International Environmental Technology Centre and those of the United Nations Environment Programme Collaborating Centre on Water and Environment, the new Global Environment Monitoring System/Water Quality Assessment Programme and action taken to implement Governing Council decision 21/13 of 9 February 2002 regarding the global assessment of the state of the marine environment,

Noting with appreciation the establishment of the United Nations Environment Programme Collaborating Centre on Water and Environment in Copenhagen, and the comprehensive review leading to the adoption of a new business plan for the Global Environment Monitoring System/Water Quality Assessment Programme based in Canada,

Recognizing the important role played by the United Nations Environment Programme in the comprehensive assessment of the water-related chapters of Agenda 21[4] as part of the preparatory process for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the water and sanitation, energy, health, agriculture and biodiversity initiative of the Secretary-General and the preparation of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development[1] which contains key issues being addressed by the United Nations Environment Programme within the overall framework of its water policy and strategy,

Recalling chapter IV of the Plan of Implementation[1] on protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development, in particular paragraphs 24 and 26 which highlight the importance of integrated water resources management and protection of ecosystems,

Convinced that the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development has generated a new momentum for concrete actions, inter alia, in the field of water, to achieve the goal of sustainable development,

Having noted the measures proposed by the Executive Director contained in documents UNEP/GC.22/INF/35 and UNEP/GC.22/2/Add.3 for enhancing the focus of work of the United Nations Environment Programme on the environmental aspects of water in accordance with national needs and subject to Governments' requests,

1. Decides that the United Nations Environment Programme, within its mandate, taking into account national priorities and in accordance with United Nations system-wide coordination processes aimed at further streamlining the United Nations water activities, should play an active role in the follow-up to the water-related outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, in particular the World Summit's Plan of Implementation. In doing so, it should support collaboration among Governments upon their request and strengthen inter-agency partnerships;

2. Requests the Executive Director to take the necessary actions in furtherance of the continued implementation of the water policy and strategy of the United Nations Environment Programme, within its mandate and the priorities identified by the Governing Council and in line with the relevant chapters of Agenda 21 as well as the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development;

3 Urges the Executive Director to assist, upon request, the relevant regional bodies and national Governments to develop and implement regional and national strategies, plans and programmes with regard to integrated river basin, watershed and groundwater management when implementing a water policy and strategy;

4. Requests the Executive Director to strengthen the freshwater component of the water policy and strategy with respect to the following:

(a) Transfer of environmentally sound technologies for water management, with due attention to the use of local technologies and awareness-raising initiatives on technology development and transfer in the water sector;

(b) Integrated river basin, watershed and groundwater management;

(c) Regional and global assessments of water resources;

(d) International and regional cooperation on the environmental aspects of water (freshwater, coastal and marine environment);

(e) Integrated freshwater – coastal area management;

(f) Groundwater vulnerability assessment and promoting sustainable groundwater resource management;

(g) Ongoing collaboration between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in the field of water, including projects on water for cities and industrial wastewater management;

5. Requests the Executive Director to take appropriate measures for strengthening the implementation of the Global International Waters Assessment project, with a view to establishing a firm basis for a continuing process of global assessment of water resources, also taking into account experience and work developed by the regional seas conventions;

6. Also requests the Executive Director, in consultation with Governments, to strengthen support for the regional implementation of the United Nations Environment Programme water policy and strategy, including further support to subregional and regional cooperation on their strategies and initiatives for the environmentally sound management of water resources, including technical assistance;

7. Further requests the Executive Director to strengthen cooperation with other United Nations agencies, international and regional organizations and support the efforts of the relevant multilateral environmental agreements, as well as national Governments, when undertaking UNEP activities related to the environmental aspects of water with a view to effective implementation without duplication and in a cost-effective way;

8. Requests the Executive Director to play an active role in the following:

(a) The observance of the World Day for Water,[9] 2003;

(b) The commemoration of the International Year of Freshwater;[10]

(c) The preparations for and conduct of the Third World Water Forum and ministerial conference, to be held in 2003, in a spirit of inter-agency cooperation;

(d) Activities of the Millennium Task Force on Water and Sanitation and the follow-up to the water and sanitation, energy, health, agriculture and biodiversity initiative of the Secretary-General;

9. Decides to review the United Nations Environment Programme water policy and strategy at the twenty-third session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum. For this purpose, the Executive Director should prepare an updated version of the water policy and strategy, based on the key policy issues for the environmental aspects of water identified in the present decision and arising from the activities undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme in pursuance of the present decision and in keeping with the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development;

10. Requests the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its twenty-third session on progress in the implementation of the present decision.

II

Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 21/10 of 9 February 2001 and SS.VII/6 of 15 February 2002,

Having considered the progress reports of the Executive Director on the implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities contained in documents UNEP/GPA/IGR.1/3, UNEP/GCSS.VII/4/Add.4 and UNEP/GC.22/2/Add.2,

Acknowledging the Montreal Declaration on the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities[11] and other outcomes of the first Intergovernmental Review Meeting of the Global Programme of Action, held in Montreal in November 2001, and the consideration given to the implementation of the Global Programme of Action by the World Summit on Sustainable Development which met in Johannesburg in September 2002, specifically in paragraphs 33 and 58 (e) of the Summit's Plan of Implementation[1] and in the framework of action on water and sanitation, energy, health, agriculture and biodiversity,

Acknowledging the relevance of the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,[12] to the implementation of the Global Programme of Action, particularly with regard to the need to mobilize and increase the effective use of financial resources to protect the environment, and the need to pursue at the national level policy and regulatory frameworks that encourage initiative while protecting the environment, as also stipulated in the Global Programme of Action,

Recognizing that the Global Programme of Action is the only global action programme that addresses the linkages between freshwater, coastal and marine environments, and is therefore uniquely placed to promote scientific, management and institutional links between the freshwater, coastal and ocean management communities; forward the principles of integrated coastal area and river basin management; and facilitate improved multi-stakeholder communication and cooperation on freshwater, coastal and ocean issues at local, national and regional levels, and encourage the prevention, control and reduction of marine pollution in accordance with paragraph 34 of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development;

Noting the key principles of the United Nations Environment Programme/World Health Organization/ Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council/ United Nations Human Settlements Programme practical guidance on municipal wastewater management (UNEP/GC.22/INF/4), outlining global consensus on innovative approaches in municipal wastewater management,

1. Requests the Executive Director to address, in the implementation of the Global Programme of Action, the outcomes of the Montreal Declaration, the Monterrey Consensus and the World Summit on Sustainable Development as they relate to the objectives of the Global Programme of Action;

2. Acknowledges with appreciation the contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to the World Summit on Sustainable Development and its preparatory process particularly with regard to emphasizing the importance of healthy oceans, coasts and islands to sustainable development;

3. Requests the Executive Director to continue to contribute to the work of the Informal Coordinating Group on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands formed for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, with a view to providing input as appropriate to the Commission on Sustainable Development when considering the results of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and creating synergies amongst the type two partnerships relating to coastal and marine issues, in collaboration with national Governments and regional seas conventions;

4. Urges Governments and international organizations in a position to do so to further contribute to the Trust Fund for the Global Programme of Action, and urges the United Nations Environment Programme to mobilize new contributors;

5. Extends appreciation to the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands for its ongoing support of the United Nations Environment Programme by hosting the Global Programme of Action Coordination Office at The Hague, and Governments, intergovernmental organizations and civil society organizations that have provided or intend to provide financial or other contributions to the Global Programme of Action's 2002-2006 programme of work endorsed by the first Intergovernmental Review Meeting and Governing Council decision SS.VII/6;

6. Requests the Executive Director to further promote the concept of integrated coastal area and river basin management, and to facilitate, wherever possible, scientific, management and institutional links between freshwater management and coastal/marine management, taking into consideration the existing experience on the matter at national and regional levels;

7. Urges Governments to adopt, and requests the Executive Director to integrate into relevant components of the programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme, a holistic environmental approach to sanitation and the implementation of the World Summit sanitation target, incorporating not only the provision of household sanitation services, but all other components of the water management process, including wastewater collection, treatment, reuse, and reallocation to the natural environment and requests the Executive Director to pursue the environmental dimension of this approach through the relevant components of the programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme;

8. Requests the Executive Director to develop a strategy paper for consideration by the Governing Council on the environmental dimensions of water supply and sanitation in the context of integrated water resource and waste water management, and to cooperate with appropriate United Nations organizations and

programmes in developing indicators to assess the impact of provision of improved sanitation on the health and well-being of the environment;

9. Requests the Executive Director to further develop the key principles of the practical guidance on municipal wastewater management and to submit it to the Governing Council for consideration at its twenty-third session;

10. Requests the Executive Director to assess the feasibility of organizing regional consultations concerning the development of waste water emission targets suitable for implementation at the national and sub-national level, including reference to ecological benefits, especially where human needs and high conservation values co-exist. Such consultations, if found feasible, should be organized within the framework of the Regional Seas Programme and in cooperation with the partners of the joint Strategic Action Plan on Municipal Wastewater of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment – the World Health Organization, the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme – and the Task Force on Water and Sanitation of the Millennium Project, taking into account Governing Council decisions concerning a global marine assessment;

11. Urges Governments to continue strengthening and accelerating their efforts in implementing the Global Programme of Action, as called for in General Assembly resolution 55/34 A of 20 November 2000, Governing Council decision SS.VII/6, and paragraph 33 of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and related voluntary type two partnerships developed in connection with the World Summit on Sustainable Development;

12. Encourages Governments, wherever possible, to conduct their national activities in support of the objectives of the Global Programme of Action, within a regional framework, considering the efforts of neighbouring Governments and the respective regional seas programmes and programmes of the regional offices;

13. Urges Governments to involve international financing institutions, non-governmental organizations, private sector and other stakeholders and major groups, through partnerships, in efforts to implement the Global Programme of Action;

14. Requests the Executive Director to submit to the Governing Council at its twenty-third session a report on the action taken by the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme to implement the present decision, including on preparations for the second Intergovernmental Review Meeting of the Global Programme of Action, in 2006, and offers by Governments to host the intergovernmental review.

III

Regional Seas Programme

A.

Regional seas strategies for sustainable development

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 21/28 of 9 February 2001 regarding the need for the development and strengthening of regional seas conventions and action plans in promoting the conservation and sustainable use of the marine and coastal environment, building partnerships and establishing linkages with multilateral environmental agreements,

Recalling also that paragraph 74 (b) of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities,[15] adopted in Washington, D.C., on 3 November 1995, requested the United Nations Environment Programme to revitalize the Regional Seas Programme and to promote and facilitate the implementation of the Global Programme of Action at the regional level,

Taking into account the main outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, as expressed in the relevant provisions of the World Summit's Plan of Implementation[1] and the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development,[14]

Acknowledging that oceans, seas, coasts and watersheds are an essential component of sustainable economic development and that for many countries alleviation of poverty and improvement of quality of life will require sustainable management of the oceans and seas,

Acknowledging also that the regional seas programme is one of the main programmes of the United Nations that provides Governments, international organizations, global environmental conventions, global programmes and initiatives, non-governmental organizations and civil society, with an institutional platform through which regional activities and partnerships can address environmental degradation and promote sustainable development,

1. Requests the Executive Director to encourage and support regional seas conventions and action plans to incorporate the following strategic elements in their programmes of work and bring those elements to the attention of their respective Member States through their governing bodies and other relevant forums:

(a) Use of regional seas conventions and action plans as an instrument for sustainable development, such as the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development of the Barcelona Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean;

(b) Enhance countries' "ownership" over their respective regional seas conventions and action plans;

(c) Increase participation of civil society and industry with the regional seas conventions and action plans in the development and implementation of programmes and partnerships;

(d) Achieve financial sustainability;

(e) Utilize the regional seas conventions and action plans as a platform for the regional implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and global programmes and initiatives;

(f) Strengthen horizontal cooperation as well as possible twinning arrangements between regional seas conventions and action plans;

(g) Strengthen cooperation between existing regional seas programmes and initiatives within or outside the United Nations system, seeking synergies among them, as appropriate;

(h) Strengthen links, cooperation and coordination with such international organizations as the International Maritime Organization, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Convention on Biological Diversity, and support cooperation among multilateral environmental agreements;

(i) Strengthen monitoring and assessment activities and ensure that regional seas secretariats are fully involved in the development of the process of establishment of the Global Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment and of the Global International Waters Assessment;

(j) Continue the administrative support from the United Nations Environment Programme headquarters to regional seas administration;

(k) Provide legal support upon request;

(l) Develop outreach, information and public awareness;

(m) Contribute to the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;

2. Requests the Executive Director to continue providing financial, technical and administrative assistance to regional seas conventions and action plans, in order to strengthen their secretariats and regional coordinating units and their programmes of work, and develop initiatives and activities aimed at securing long-term sustainability taking into account the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development. This support should be directed primarily at strengthening regional seas conventions and action plans with special needs;

3. Calls upon all littoral states of shared inland waters to collectively establish legal instruments for the protection of the environment of the respective area as soon as possible;

4. Requests the Executive Director to support and facilitate relevant processes of establishing mechanisms and instruments with regard to the protection of inland waters mainly through the United Nations Environment Programme's regional offices;

5. Calls upon the Executive Director and countries of respective regional seas programmes in a position to do so to mobilize resources in order to support the implementation of the plans of action for the regional seas programmes;

6. Invites donor countries, international financial institutions and the United Nations system, including the United Nations Environment Programme, within its available resources, to provide financial support and expertise towards regional seas programmes;

7. Requests the Executive Director to support, upon request from relevant Governments, the establishment of new regional seas conventions and action plans, where appropriate, subject to additional funding;

8. Invites Governments:

(a) To take a more proactive role in all the stages of the implementation of the programme of work of their respective regional seas conventions and action plans and to develop "ownership" over those conventions and action plans;

(b) To strengthen their respective regional seas conventions and action plans by making their financial contributions and meeting their programmatic commitments and by providing additional resources to the secretariats in order to further implement relevant activities aimed at the sustainable use and management of the marine and coastal environment;

(c) To broaden governmental participation through the involvement of all relevant national ministries;

(d) To broaden monitoring, assessment and training activities which would serve as a scientific basis for efficient sustainable management.

B

Northwest Pacific Action Plan

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 21/30 of 9 February 2001, on the implementation of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan,

Having considered with appreciation the support provided by the Executive Director towards the implementation of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan as well as towards the progress made on the establishment of the co-hosted regional coordination unit and the establishment and activation of the four regional activity centres, as described in document UNEP/GC.22/INF/18,

Taking into account the resolutions of the seventh Intergovernmental Meeting (Vladivostok, Russian Federation, 20-22 March 2002) of the Action Plan for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northwest Pacific Region,

1. Requests the Executive Director to facilitate the finalization of the host country agreements for the co-hosted regional coordinating unit with Japan and the Republic of Korea and to facilitate the recruitment process for the staff of the unit;

2. Requests the Executive Director to continue to serve as the interim secretariat for the Northwest Pacific Action Plan until the co-hosted regional coordinating unit is fully established and operational, and to continue to support the activities of the unit through guidance and advice, following its establishment;

3. Requests the Executive Director to facilitate the development and implementation of a Global Environment Facility project on land-based activities in the Northwest Pacific Action Plan region.

C

The Northeast Pacific Action Plan–La Antigua Guatemala Convention

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 19/14 E of 7 February 1997, 20/20 of 4 February 1999, and 21/29 of 9 February 2001 concerning the establishment of a regional seas programme for the Central-East Pacific Region,

Noting with appreciation the signature of the Convention for Cooperation in the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northeast Pacific at the Conference of Plenipotentiaries of the Northeast Pacific Regional Seas Programme in Antigua Guatemala, Guatemala, on 18 February 2002, by Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama,

Noting with satisfaction that the Conference of Plenipotentiaries also adopted the Plan of Action for the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northeast Pacific,

Taking into account the resolutions of the first Intergovernmental Meeting of the Plan of Action for the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northeast Pacific (Guatemala City, 19-22 February 2002),[15]

1. Notes with appreciation the support provided by the United Nations Environment Programme during the negotiation and signature of the text of the Convention for Cooperation in the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northeast Pacific;

2. Also notes with appreciation the support provided by the United Nations Environment Programme and the Central American Commission on Maritime Transportation in the implementation of the Plan of Action for the Northeast Pacific, in their capacity as interim secretariat until the regional coordinating unit is established;

3. Encourages those Governments which have already signed the Convention for Cooperation in the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northeast Pacific to ratify the Convention to ensure its entry into force as soon as possible and to deposit their instruments of ratification with the depository Government, the Government of Guatemala;

4. Invites countries that have not yet signed, ratified or acceded to the Convention for Cooperation in the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northeast Pacific to consider doing so as soon as possible and to take the necessary steps to implement that Convention;

5. Recommends that the Governments of the region convene the second Intergovernmental Meeting of the Plan of Action and requests the Executive Director to assist in that task;

6. Calls upon the Governments of the region to establish a regional coordinating unit for the Action Plan following the offers made by the countries.

D

Abidjan Convention for Cooperation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region and Nairobi Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Eastern African Region

The Governing Council,

Noting with appreciation the work accomplished by the United Nations Environment Programme by establishing a joint umbrella mechanism, to coordinate the programme of work for the Abidjan Convention on Cooperation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region and the Nairobi Convention on the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Eastern African Region,

Noting with appreciation the twinning arrangements between the Abidjan and Nairobi Conventions with the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Northeast Atlantic and the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area, respectively,

Conscious of the work carried out by the Coordination Office of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities in support of the two regional seas conventions in Africa,

Taking note of the challenges that have faced the Abidjan and Nairobi Conventions during the past two decades and the socio-economic factors in the management of marine and coastal resources, as well as the need for strategies and actions to mitigate against stress from human threats and global climate change on the marine and coastal environment,

1. Requests the Executive Director to provide technical and financial support to ensure effective coordination of the programmes of work for the Abidjan and Nairobi Conventions through the Regional Seas Programme of the United Nations Environment Programme and to focus on activities that make the two conventions effective instruments for sustainable development, to address, among other issues, poverty, health and the environment to benefit all actors within the African coastal states;

2. Requests the Executive Director to provide support and delegate additional responsibilities to regional coordinating units to ensure that they coordinate regional consensus-building, intergovernmental dialogue and resource mobilization and to undertake the necessary coordination work for the implementation of the outcomes of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;

3. Invites countries within the Nairobi and Abidjan Convention areas that have not ratified or acceded to the conventions to consider doing so and to take the necessary steps to implement the conventions and requests the Executive Director to facilitate such ratifications by providing, upon request of relevant Governments, technical assistance and legal advisory services;

4. Invites Governments that are parties to the regional seas conventions to strengthen those conventions by making contributions to the respective trust funds.

E

South-East Pacific Action Plan - Lima Convention

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 19/14 B of 7 February 1997 concerning the strengthening of the regional seas programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean,

Considering that the South-East Pacific region is one of the most valuable and productive marine ecosystems in the world, and that consequently the protection of the marine and coastal environment is of regional and international concern,

Recalling that the main objective of the Action Plan for the Protection of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the South-East Pacific, created in 1981 in the framework of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the South-East Pacific (Lima Convention), is the protection of the marine environment to promote the preservation of the health and well-being of present and future generations. This objective is in conformity with the Rio principles and the dispositions of chapter 17 of Agenda 21,[4] as well as the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,[1]

Bearing in mind that the South-East Pacific Action Plan is being executed successfully on the basis of fruitful inter-agency cooperation between the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific and the United Nations Environment Programme,

Recalling also that several decisions of the meetings of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean decided to exhort the United Nations Environment Programme to pay due attention to the effective strengthening of the regional action plans for the protection of the marine environment and coastal areas, such as the South-East Pacific Action Plan and Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme,

Considering that the South-East Pacific Action Plan is taking on new and greater environmental challenges stemming from the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and currently from the World Summit on Sustainable Development, in addition to the regional implementation of international conventions such as the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, and conventions of the International Maritime Organization, among others,

Taking into account decision 4 of the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Action Plan for the Protection of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the South-East Pacific, of November 2002, to strengthen cooperation between the South-East Pacific Action Plan and the United Nations Environment Programme,

Requests the Executive Director to strengthen horizontal cooperation as well as twinning arrangements established by the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific and the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme and to support the organization of an interregional conference between those two regions, in addition to a conference between the regional seas programmes of the Pacific basin in 2004, in order to develop knowledge of the state of the marine environment in the Pacific as a whole.

IV

Coral reefs

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 18/33 of 26 May 1995, 19/15 of 7 February 1997 and 20/21 of 4 February 1999,

Recalling in particular its decision 21/12 of 9 February 2001,

Noting that while the reports of surveys of the status of the health of the world's coral reefs, including the work of the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network, the Coral Reef Degradation in the Indian Ocean project and Reef Check indicate a slow recovery on many of the world's most damaged coral reefs, from both anthropogenic and natural impacts, there is generally a continuing decline in coral reef health, particularly with respect to fish and shellfish stocks and continuing vulnerability as a result of human activities,

Acknowledging the pioneering and continuing role of the International Coral Reef Initiative both in raising awareness of the decline of coral reefs and in initiating action to address that decline, including through recent regional workshops in Cebu, Philippines, Maputo and Cancun, Mexico,

Anxious to ensure that the United Nations Environment Programme makes optimal use of its scientific and technical resources in coral reef work,

Underscoring the need to address the problems faced by developing countries with regard to the impacts of coral reef degradation on vulnerable coastal communities and their subsistence,

Recognizing the progress made in strengthening the International Coral Reef Action Network partnership, and its initial progress in implementing coral reef management action since the main phase of the project commenced in June 2001,

Noting with approval that the expansion of the International Coral Reef Action Network as a type two partnership to embrace the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment, the Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Marine Environment of the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden and South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme was announced during the World Summit on Sustainable Development,

Considering that the success of the International Coral Reef Action Network relies on a close working relationship and lasting cooperation with civil society, particularly the tourism and fisheries industries, and their international organizations,

Noting that many Governing Council member countries are parties to multilateral environmental agreements as well as to the International Coral Reef Initiative, and recognizing the need to improve coordination of work programmes related to coral reefs under those agreements,

1. Extends the scope of its decision 21/12 to cover the period 2003-2004;

2. Requests the Executive Director to provide continued support to the International Coral Reef Initiative to enhance its development and impact;

3. Requests the Executive Director to provide support to the International Coral Reef Action Network, one of the operational networks of the International Coral Reef Initiative, noting its expansion at the World Summit on Sustainable Development to three additional tropical seas containing coral communities, and to promote the participation of industries in the Network;

4. Welcomes the growing role of the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre as a centre of excellence for coral reefs, hosting the United Nations Environment Programme Coral Reef Unit and maintaining its role in supporting the coordinating unit for the International Coral Reef Action Network;

5. Supports the realization of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development[1] in respect to coral reefs;

6. Requests the Executive Director to continue giving effect to Governing Council decision 21/12, paragraphs 6[16] and 7,[17] and encourages the engagement of international financing institutions in this process;

7. Requests the Executive Director to submit a progress report on the conservation and sustainable use of coral reefs to the Governing Council at its twenty-third session.

V

Marine safety and protection of the marine environment from accidental pollution

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 21/28 of 9 February 2001, in which the Council requested the Executive Director to support the establishment of a joint International Maritime Organization/United Nations Environment Programme forum on emergency response to marine pollution,

Aware of the concerns of the international community regarding marine safety and protection of the marine environment from accidental pollution and the need to strengthen the safety conditions of maritime transport,

Acknowledging the commitment made in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,[1] urging the International Maritime Organization to consider stronger mechanisms to secure implementation of its instruments by flag States,

Deeply concerned that the maritime transport of certain substances still poses important risks for the marine and coastal environment as evidenced by the recent accident off the Spanish coast,

Reaffirming the importance of the speedy implementation of the legal commitments contained in multilateral environmental and maritime transport agreements,

1. Invites the International Maritime Organization to actively review international regulations regarding single-hull tankers, especially those involved in the transport of heavy fuel oil, and to consider their more timely phasing out, to the degree that this is possible, with a view to reducing serious risk to the environment;

2. Highlights the need to promote the adequate protection of the marine areas and coastal zones that fulfil the criteria for the designation of particularly sensitive sea areas and advocates the furthering of the process of designating those areas in the framework of the International Maritime Organization;

3. Invites the International Maritime Organization to consider establishing a supplementary compensation fund for oil pollution victims, as well as for remediation of environmental damage through a protocol that could be considered for adoption during the Diplomatic Conference to be convened by the International Maritime Organization from 12 to 16 May 2003;

4. Encourages the strengthening of cooperation, at the regional and international levels, to prevent pollution and combat it in the event of a spill;

5. Invites all coastal and flag States that have not yet done so to consider ratification of the International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Cooperation, 1990 and also the Protocol on Preparedness, Response and Cooperation on Pollution Incidents by Hazardous and Noxious Substances, 2000, and to implement all the commitments of those instruments;

6. Invites the United Nations Environment Programme and the International Maritime Organization to strengthen their cooperation for an effective implementation at the regional level, of the global rules and regulations regarding prevention and combating of pollution from shipping;

7. Requests the Executive Director, in the framework of the Regional Seas Programme to support the regional implementation of the present decision, in full cooperation with the International Maritime Organization, as appropriate.

10th and 11th meetings
7 February 2003

22/3. Climate and atmosphere

I

Adaptation to climate change

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 21/9 A of 9 February 2001 and 16/41 IV of 31 May 1991 on the World Climate Programme, as well as 17/24 C of 21 May 1993 and 18/20 A of 26 May 1995 on the Climate Agenda,

Recalling the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme,[7]

Recognizing that the United Nations Environment Programme is responsible for studies of climate impact assessments and response strategies to reduce vulnerability within the World Climate Programme and the Climate Agenda, as described in the information note on the same subject (UNEP/GC.22/INF/26),

Noting the ongoing efforts of developed countries to provide technical and financial assistance and capacity-building to meet the specific needs and special circumstances of the least developed countries, small island developing States and developing countries that are most vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change,

Noting paragraph (a) of the Delhi Ministerial Declaration on Climate Change and Sustainable Development,[8] which states that "Parties that have ratified the Kyoto Protocol strongly urge Parties that have not already done so to ratify the Kyoto Protocol in a timely manner";

Noting also paragraph (b) of the Delhi Ministerial Declaration, which states that Parties have a right to, and should promote sustainable development policies and measures to protect the climate system against human-induced change, which should be appropriate for the specific conditions of each Party and should be integrated with national development programmes, taking into account that economic development is essential for adopting measures to address climate change,

Noting further paragraph (e) of the Delhi Ministerial Declaration, which states that adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change is of high priority for all countries; that developing countries are particularly vulnerable, especially the least developed countries and small island developing States; that adaptation requires urgent attention and action on the part of all countries; that effective and result-based measures should be supported for the development of approaches at all levels on vulnerability and adaptation, as well as capacity-building for the integration of adaptation concerns into sustainable development strategies; and that the measures should include full implementation of existing commitments under the Convention and the Marrakech Accords;[19]

Taking note of the important findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Third Assessment Report,

Taking note also of the United Nations Environment Programme's programme of work, which includes adaptation activities to reduce vulnerability to climate change,

Noting that national communications under the Convention on Climate Change from developing countries are a basis for better identifying the needs of developing countries and improving the possibilities of effectively assisting them in reducing vulnerability and enhancing adaptation activities to climate change, and further stressing the importance that actions related to adaptation are country-driven and country-owned, and based on assessment of actual needs, expressed in national communications or in relevant in-depth national studies, including the national adaptation programmes of action,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.22/2) and information note on the activities of the United Nations Environment Programme in the area of adaptation to climate change (UNEP/GC.22/INF/26), especially related to the implementation of decision 21/9 A of 9 February 2001 on the Climate Agenda and World Climate Impact Assessment and Response Strategies Programme,

1. Decides that the United Nations Environment Programme, as part of its responsibility within the World Climate Programme and the Climate Agenda, should strengthen its existing role, within available resources and in the light of its programme of work, to support regional and national actions and programmes including national adaptation programmes of action for least developed countries as well as programmes to reduce the vulnerability of developing countries to climate change, particularly the least developed countries and small island developing States, in cooperation with the Convention on Climate Change secretariat and other relevant bodies, seeking to ensure that United Nations Environment Programme activities are complementary to and not duplicative of work carried out by other agencies;

2. Requests the Executive Director to assist, upon request by developing countries and within available resources, as well as in accordance with the United Nations Environment Programme's existing role and mandate, in undertaking activities, including those identified in the Marrakech Accords, related to, adaptation and the transfer of technology, to meet the specific needs arising from the adverse effects of climate change, identified also in national communications or in relevant in-depth national studies, including the national adaptation programmes of action, without duplicating activities under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

3. Requests the Executive Director to strengthen and expand cooperation, within available resources, between the United Nations Environment Programme and appropriate scientific organizations to advance policy and know-how for reducing the vulnerability to climate change in various sectors, in particular water resources, biodiversity, agriculture, coastal zone management and health, in the context sustainable development;

4. Requests the Executive Director to seek contributions from Governments in a position to contribute, for the activities referred to in the present decision bearing in mind the third replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund and the establishment of the special Climate Change Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Adaptation Fund in accordance with the Marrakech Accords;[19]

5. Invites States that have not yet signed, ratified, or acceded to the Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol to consider doing so in a timely manner;

6. Invites the Executive Director to continue to raise public awareness of the findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

II

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 21/9 B of 9 February 2001,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.22/2, chap. II. K) and the information note (UNEP/GC.22/INF/26) on the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change,

Noting with satisfaction the excellent work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the completion of its Third Assessment Report, which contains the current state of knowledge on the issue of climate change and a basis for advancing international efforts to address the problems of climate change,

Noting further that the Third Assessment Report also provides the scientific support needed for negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change as evidenced, in particular by its instrumental role in the negotiations and agreement on the Marrakech Accords,

Recognizing that a technical paper of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change relating to climate change and biological diversity, prepared at the request of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, also supported the assessment needs of that Convention,

Recognizing also the efforts made by the heads of the two parent organizations of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, namely, the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Meteorological Organization, in strengthening their cooperation and support to the Panel,

1. Takes note of the reports of the Executive Director and expresses its appreciation for the excellent work of the Intergovernmental Panel under the leadership of both the previous and current Chair;

2. Requests the Executive Director, in cooperation with the Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization, to continue with the arrangements necessary for the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to carry on, ensuring a wide and effective participation of developing country experts in the process;

3. Also requests the Executive Director to continue disseminating the findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change widely, complementing the efforts undertaken in the context of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on the implementation of article 6 on education, training and public awareness;

4. Urges Governments in a position to do so, to provide financial, technical and scientific support to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change process to ensure the continuation of its effective operation and a successful completion of the fourth assessment;

5. Requests the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to report, through its Chair, on the progress of its work to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its twenty-third session.

10th and 11th meeting
7 February 2003

22/4. Chemicals

I

Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade

The Governing Council,

Recalling chapter 19 of Agenda 21 and Governing Council decisions 18/12 of 26 May 1995, 19/13 A of 7 February 1997, SS.V/5 of 22 May 1998, 20/22 of 4 February 1999, 21/3 of 9 February 2001 and SS.VII/3 of 15 February 2002,

Noting with appreciation the work done by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for an International Legally Binding Instrument for the Application of the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade in overseeing the implementation of the interim prior informed consent procedure and in preparing for the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties,

Taking note of the 73 Governments and regional economic integration organizations that signed the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals in International Trade prior to the close of the signature period on 10 September 1999;

Welcoming the progress in ratifying, accepting, approving or acceding to the Convention,

1. Invites States and regional economic integration organizations entitled to do so to ratify, accept, approve or accede to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, with a view to its entry into force by 2003 as called for in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development; [1]

2. Calls upon States and regional economic integration organizations to make voluntary contributions to the trust fund established by the United Nations Environment Programme to support the interim arrangements and the operation of the Conference of the Parties until the end of the fiscal year in which the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties takes place, and to ensure the full and effective participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the further work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee;

3. Requests the Executive Director, in consultation with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, to continue to promote cooperation between the interim secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention and the secretariats of other relevant conventions.

II

Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 18/32 of 25 May 1995, 19/13 C of 7 February 1997, 20/24 of 4 February 1999 and 21/4 of 9 February 2001 on persistent organic pollutants,

Considering the call for ratification of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, to ensure that it enters into force by 2004, as envisaged in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, [1]

Welcoming the adoption of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, which took place on 22 May 2001 at the Conference of Plenipotentiaries convened for that purpose in Stockholm,

Taking note of the 151 Governments and regional economic integration organizations that signed the Stockholm Convention prior to the close of the signature period on 21 May 2002,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on international action to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants (UNEP/GC.22/2, chap. II.C),

1. Invites States and regional economic integration organizations entitled to do so to ratify, accept, approve or accede to the Convention, with a view to its entry into force by 2004, as called for in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development;

2. Authorizes the continued participation of the United Nations Environment Programme secretariat in an interim secretariat of the Stockholm Convention, as requested by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries;

3. Requests the Executive Director to continue to promote full cooperation between the interim secretariat and the secretariats of other relevant conventions, in particular with respect to the development of support to Governments in developing implementation plans;

4. Welcomes the decision of the Assembly of the Global Environment Facility of October 2002 to establish a new focal area on persistent organic pollutants and the efforts of the Global Environment Facility to serve as the principal entity of the interim financial mechanism of the Stockholm Convention, including their rapid support in funding enabling activities;

5. Urges the Executive Director, through the interim secretariat of the Convention, to continue to assist in the implementation of relevant resolutions of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries and to assist in the implementation of the decisions of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee of the Stockholm Convention at its sixth session, in June 2002, with a view to facilitating capacity-building, the early entry into force of the Convention and financing and preparations for the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

6. Invites the Executive Director to take further actions to facilitate voluntary implementation of the Convention prior to its entry into force as called for by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee;

7. Appeals to Governments, as well as to intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to provide sufficient financial resources for the implementation of interim arrangements for the Convention prior to the first session of its Conference of the Parties, including funding of the activities of the interim secretariat of the Convention;

8. Requests the Executive Director to continue taking actions as requested by the Governing Council in its decision 19/13 C of 7 February 1997, including the immediate actions identified in paragraph 13 of that decision;

9. Encourages Governments, as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to provide financial and in-kind contributions for supporting implementation of the immediate actions called for in paragraph 13 of Governing Council decision 19/13 C.

III

Lead

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 21/6 of 9 February 2001, on lead in gasoline, reaffirmed in decision SS.VII/3 of 15 February 2002, calling upon Governments to eliminate the use of lead in gasoline and urging Governments, international organizations, the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety and civil society to participate actively in assisting national Governments in such a phase-out, including making available information, technical assistance, capacity-building and funding necessary to enable developing countries to take an active part in the phase-out,

Recalling also the commitment in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development[1] to reduce respiratory diseases and other health impacts resulting from air pollution, with particular attention to women and children, by supporting the phasing out of lead in gasoline and in lead-based paints and other sources of human exposure, working to prevent, in particular, children's exposure to lead, and strengthening monitoring and surveillance efforts and the treatment of lead poisoning,

Noting efforts undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme to assist in the phase out of lead in gasoline, including the partnership initiative bringing together Governments, industry, international organizations and non-governmental organizations worldwide to facilitate a wider use of cleaner fuels, including the elimination of lead,

Noting with appreciation the efforts of the Technical Working Group of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, to develop technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of waste lead-acid batteries,

Expressing its appreciation to the Governments that have taken action to eliminate the use of lead in gasoline,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on progress in phasing out lead in gasoline (UNEP/GC.22/2, chap. II.E),

1. Encourages Governments, relevant organizations and other stakeholders to apply the technical guidelines, as appropriate, for ensuring the environmentally sound management of these lead-containing wastes;

2. Calls upon Governments that have not yet done so to act urgently to eliminate the use of lead in gasoline;

3. Urges Governments, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to work with the private sector to identify effective ways of reducing exposures to lead and to strengthen monitoring and surveillance efforts and the treatment of lead poisoning;

4. Also calls upon Governments to act urgently on the commitment of the World Summit on Sustainable Development to phase out lead in lead-based paint and other sources of human exposure, to prevent exposure to lead, in particular children's exposure to lead, and to strengthen monitoring and surveillance as well as treatment of lead poisoning;

5. Requests the Executive Director, in cooperation with other members of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, in particular with the World Health Organization, as well as with other partners, including the private sector, to assist Governments, through information exchange and capacity-building, in their efforts to phase out lead in gasoline, lead-based paint and other sources of human exposure, to prevent exposure to lead and to strengthen efforts for monitoring and surveillance as well as treatment of lead poisoning;

6. Appeals to Governments, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and civil society to participate actively in assisting national Governments in their efforts to prevent and phase out sources of human exposure to lead, in particular the use of lead in gasoline, and to strengthen monitoring and surveillance efforts as well as treatment of lead poisoning, by making available information, technical assistance, capacity-building, and funding to developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

7. Requests the Executive Director to provide additional resources[20] for the implementation of the present decision to cover its core infrastructure costs.

IV

Strategic approach to international chemicals management

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 18/12 of 26 May 1995, 19/13 of 7 February 1997, 20/23 of 4 February 1999 and SS.VII/3 of 15 February 2002 concerning global policies related to chemicals management and the necessity to further develop a strategic approach to international chemicals management,

Taking note of the substantive work on chemical safety undertaken by the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety and the importance of its contribution to the further development of the strategic approach to international chemicals management, to be conducted in a fully participatory manner in conformity with decision SS.VII/3, including identifying any gaps in the implementation of the Bahia Declaration and Priorities for Action beyond 2000,[21] and suggesting remedies for any identifiable gaps,

Recalling also the aim set out in paragraph 23 of the Plan of Implementation,[1] adopted by the World Summit on Sustainable Development on 4 September 2002, of achieving, by 2020, that chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment, using transparent science-based risk assessment procedures and science-based risk management procedures, taking into account the precautionary approach, as set out in principle 15 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[22] and support developing countries in strengthening their capacity for the sound management of chemicals and hazardous waste by providing technical and financial assistance,

Recalling further paragraph 23 (b) of the Plan of Implementation, in which the World Summit endorsed the further development of a strategic approach to international chemicals management based on the Bahia Declaration and Priorities for Action beyond 2000 of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety by 2005, and urged that the United Nations Environment Programme, the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety, other international organizations dealing with chemical management, and other relevant international organizations and actors closely cooperate in this regard, as appropriate,

Having considered the progress report of the Executive Director on the strategic approach to international chemicals management (UNEP/GC.22/INF/22),

Noting the preparatory work undertaken by the steering committee formed to act as a facilitative steering mechanism to deal with practical aspects of the strategic approach process and comprising representatives of the seven participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety, the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme,

1. Decides to proceed with the further development of a strategic approach as envisioned in decision SS.VII/3 and underlines that the scope of the strategic approach[23] should be clearly defined and take into account economic, social and environmental aspects of chemicals management, with a view to contributing to sustainable development, and decides that this approach should be regularly reviewed to assess progress on chemical safety, in the light of the targets set at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, in cooperation with other relevant processes;

2. Requests the Executive Director to compile possible draft elements of such a strategic approach for consideration by the first preparatory meeting and invites Governments, relevant international organizations and other actors to contribute to that compilation;

3. Endorses the concept of an open-ended consultative process involving representatives of all stakeholder groups as envisaged in decision SS.VII/3, taking the form of preparatory meetings and the convening of an international conference;

4. Requests the Executive Director to propose to the co-conveners that they consider holding the international conference in conjunction with the ninth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum in early 2006, with a view to the latter serving as a high-level segment of the conference that would consider adopting the completed strategic approach document on behalf of the United Nations Environment Programme and inviting the governing bodies of other relevant organizations also to endorse it;

5. Calls upon the Executive Director to strive to ensure that the process of further developing the strategic approach remains open, transparent and inclusive, providing all stakeholders opportunities to participate in the substantive work;

6. Invites participating organizations in the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, Governments, the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety, the Global Environment Facility and other major agencies responsible for the funding and delivery of international development cooperation, and other relevant organizations and stakeholders, to collaborate actively in the further development of the strategic approach;

7. Notes the importance of coordination between the development of the strategic approach to international chemicals management and the work of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, and the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and its Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, with due regard to their respective mandates;

8. Calls upon Governments and other stakeholders to contribute the extrabudgetary resources needed to support the further development of the strategic approach;

9. Requests the Executive Director to report at the eighth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum on progress in the development of a strategic approach;

10. Requests the Executive Director to report to the twenty-third session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum on progress and the outcomes of the preparatory meetings;

11. Requests the Executive Director to provide additional resources[24] for the implementation of the present decision to cover its core infrastructure costs.

V

Mercury programme

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 21/5 of 9 February 2001 on mercury assessment, initiating an expeditious, open, transparent and inclusive process to undertake a global assessment of mercury and its compounds to be presented to the Governing Council at its session in 2003,

Noting with appreciation the assessment process carried out by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in cooperation with members of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals and the work undertaken by the Global Mercury Assessment Working Group,

Having considered the global mercury assessment report (UNEP/GC.22/INF/3) and the report of the Global Mercury Assessment Working Group (UNEP/GC.22/INF/2) and noting the range of options set out therein,

Concerned by the deleterious impacts on human health and the environment attributed to mercury and its capacity for global transport/cycling,

Recognizing the significant ongoing regional cooperation efforts to both assess risks associated with mercury and its compounds and to develop strategies and actions to deal with them,

Also recalling paragraph 23 (g) of the Plan of Implementation[1] adopted by the World Summit on Sustainable Development, , which called for action at all levels to promote the reduction of the risks posed by heavy metals that are harmful to human health and the environment, including through a review of relevant studies, such as the United Nations Environment Programme global assessment of mercury and its compounds,

1. Accepts the key findings of the global mercury assessment and finds that there is sufficient evidence of significant global adverse impacts from mercury and its compounds to warrant further international action to reduce the risks to human health and the environment from the release of mercury and its compounds to the environment;

2. Decides that national, regional and global actions, both immediate and long-term, should be initiated as soon as possible to protect human health and the environment through measures that will reduce or eliminate releases of mercury and its compounds to the environment;

3. Urges all countries to adopt goals and take national actions, as appropriate, with the objective of identifying exposed populations and ecosystems, and reducing anthropogenic mercury releases that impact human health and the environment;

4. Requests the Executive Director to facilitate and conduct technical assistance and capacity-building activities to support the efforts of countries to take action regarding mercury pollution, with the broad objectives and priority actions set out in the annex to the present decision, in the light of the options for immediate action outlined in the global mercury assessment;

5. Requests the Executive Director to consult and cooperate with other international organizations that address issues related to mercury and its compounds, such as the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety, the member organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals and the secretariats of relevant conventions, bearing in mind the need to avoid duplication of work, and agrees that these efforts should rely, to the extent possible, on existing institutions and infrastructures;

6. Invites the Executive Director to seek partnerships with non-governmental organizations and the private sector in order to support the effective and coordinated elaboration and implementation of the actions on mercury and its compounds;

7. Encourages Governments, relevant international organizations within their respective mandates, and other partners to mobilize technical and financial resources to support national, regional and global efforts and capacity-building relating to the immediate and other options mentioned above. In so doing, established organizations and existing international frameworks and infrastructure should be relied upon to the extent possible;

8. Expresses appreciation to those countries that have made financial contributions to the global mercury assessment, and urges all countries to consider making voluntary contributions to support the efforts of the United Nations Environment Programme in the implementation of the present decision;

9. Requests the Executive Director to report on progress in the implementation of the present decision at its twenty-third session and to invite submissions from Governments on their views with regard to further measures for addressing the significant global adverse impacts of mercury and its compounds and compile and present the submissions and a factual analysis of such submissions and a synthesis of views and options submitted, including, for example, on the possibility of developing a legally binding instrument, a non-legally binding instrument or other measures or actions, for consideration by the Governing Council at its twenty-third session, in the light of progress in the further development of the strategic approach to international chemicals management;

10. Decides to consider, at its twenty-third session, on the basis of a report by the Executive Director and submissions by Governments, intergovernmental organizations and other stakeholders, what further action might be taken with regard to other heavy metals, for example, lead and cadmium;

11. Requests the Executive Director to provide additional resources[25] for the implementation of the present decision to cover its core infrastructure costs.

11th meeting
7 February 2003

Annex

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
PROGRAMME FOR INTERNATIONAL ACTION ON MERCURY

1. To assist all countries, and in particular developing countries and countries with economies in transition, with the following objectives:

(a) Improve the scientific basis for health and environmental policies regarding mercury and mercury compounds, such as understanding what populations and ecosystems are at risk and the fate and transport of mercury in the environment;

(b) Enhance risk communication on mercury, particularly to at-risk populations, including sensitive populations;

(c) Reduce anthropogenic releases of mercury that impact human health and the environment including, but not limited to, reductions from combustion sources, commercial processes, operations, products, and waste streams;

(d) Reduce the demand for and the uses of mercury that impact human health and the environment (such as, work towards reduction of uses of mercury, giving consideration to application of feasible alternatives);

(e) Develop an enhanced capacity to assess the risks and impacts of mercury to humans, ecosystems, fish, and wildlife, and to facilitate actions to manage those risks;

(f) Cooperate with the World Health Organization and other international organizations to accelerate the application of research and development results to the mitigation of the ecological and human health impacts of mercury exposure;

(g) Improve global collection and exchange of information on mercury exposure, use, production, trade, disposal and release;

(h) Identify environmentally harmful subsidization of mercury mining and encourage a phase-down and eventual removal of such subsidization.

2. The priority in the immediate future is to support capacity-building, particularly for developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and working with partners to mobilize funding from various sources. This would include facilitating national or regional efforts by:

(a) Initiating a process to assist countries in understanding the nature and magnitude of the mercury problem and in developing tools and strategies to mitigate mercury pollution. This could include establishing national implementation plans; promoting public awareness; developing use, release and contaminated site inventories; developing waste management regimes, developing appropriate regulatory structures; and supporting regional information exchange and promoting pilot projects, where appropriate;

(b) Conducting training and workshops on a range of sectoral or regionally relevant topics;

(c) Increasing awareness and promotion of mercury-free products, technologies and processes, using and/or with environmentally friendly alternatives;

(d) Developing strategies for enhanced outreach and risk communication activities to reach at – risk populations, including sensitive populations;

(e) Promoting information exchange and collaboration on mercury-related monitoring, research, and assessment issues;

(f) Promoting awareness of alternative livelihood options and promote transfer of appropriate technology for the small-scale artisanal mining sector which uses mercury, taking into account the ongoing activities of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization in this field;

(g) Identifying areas where legislation or other measures might be considered, and upon request of a country, assisting in the development of legislation and regulations for enforcement.

22/5. Enhancing the role of the United Nations Environment Programme on forest-related issues

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 21/2 of 9 February 2001 requesting the Executive Director to continue supporting the multi-year programme of work of the United Nations Forum on Forests in relation to the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Bearing in mind that the United Nations Environment Programme is a member of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests whose task is to support the work of the United Nations Forum on Forests and in that regard, the implementation of the proposals of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests,

Stressing the need to implement the proposal for action submitted by the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests, on strengthening the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests, particularly in developing countries with low forest cover, through international cooperation,

Recalling the decision of the United Nations Forum on Forests at its first substantive session (New York, 11-22 June 2001) at which Governments and other participants at the Forum were encouraged to provide consistent messages in the governing bodies of member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests in order to improve coherence and cooperation between them,

Encouraged by the activities of the United Nations Environment Programme to enhance cooperation and coordination with other member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests,

1. Welcomes the report of the United Nations Environment Programme to the United Nations Forum on Forests at its second session (New York, 4-15 March 2002) on rehabilitation and conservation strategies for countries with low forest cover;

2. Requests the Executive Director, in collaboration with the Coordinator and Head of the secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests, to cooperate with other organizations in response to decision C adopted by the United Nations Forum on Forests at its second session as well as other relevant decisions, to support the work of the Tehran Process[26] and its secretariat to strengthen the capacity of low forest cover countries.

11th meeting
7 February 2003

22/6. Promotion of sustainable consumption and production patterns

The Governing Council,

Recalling paragraph 14 of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,[1] which states that fundamental changes in the way societies produce and consume are indispensable for achieving global sustainable development. All countries should promote sustainable consumption and production patterns, with the developed countries taking the lead and with all countries benefiting from the process, taking into account the Rio principles including, inter alia, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities as set out in principle 7 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development. Governments, relevant international organizations, the private sector and all major groups should play an active role in changing unsustainable consumption and production patterns,

Recalling also the work undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme since 1992 to promote cleaner production, pollution prevention and sustainable consumption, in cooperation with other United Nations organizations and other stakeholders,

Recognizing the results in the field of cleaner production, pollution prevention and eco-efficiency already achieved and documented in regular progress reports published on the occasion of the biannual high-level conferences on cleaner production, and the remaining and emerging challenges with respect to sustainable consumption and production,

1. Requests the Executive Director to strengthen sustainable consumption and production activities of the United Nations Environment Programme within its existing mandate and subject to available resources, and consistent with the recommendations adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development;

2. Requests the Executive Director to strengthen existing eco-efficiency, cleaner production and sustainable consumption programmes, such as the United Nations Environment Programme's regional cleaner production roundtables and its partnership with the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry, including facilitating the transfer of environmentally sound technologies, especially to developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and activities to stimulate the design of sustainable products and services;

3. Invites the Executive Director to build upon the United Nations Environment Programme's existing activities and initiatives with relevant governmental institutions and the private sector, including with the finance sector, tour operators and the telecommunications industry, to contribute to strengthening the role of business and industry in promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns;

4. Requests the Executive Director to support initiatives and activities to enhance corporate responsibility and accountability, within the existing mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, as referred to in paragraphs 18 and 49 of the World Summit Plan of Implementation;

5. Requests the Executive Director to develop and facilitate consumer awareness campaigns and provide information to Governments to assist in implementing sustainable consumption approaches, such as those contained in the United Nations Guidelines for Consumer Protection;[27]

6. Requests the Executive Director to further develop training, awareness raising and capacity-building programmes in support of Governments, local authorities and business and industry, in particular in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, on sustainable production and consumption in cooperation with other relevant United Nations organizations and international intergovernmental organizations;

7. Requests the Executive Director, in implementing the present decision, to take fully into account, inter alia, gender issues and differing circumstances in regions and countries, in particular the characteristics, development needs and capabilities of developing countries, particularly small island developing States and countries with economies in transition, so that all countries can benefit from the process, by setting up, or contributing to, regional programmes, building upon existing networks and activities;

8. Requests the Executive Director, within the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, to take an active role, working in cooperation with Governments, other relevant United Nations organizations and intergovernmental organizations and involving other stakeholders, in pursuit of the development of a 10-year framework of programmes in support of regional and national initiatives to accelerate the shift to sustainable consumption and production patterns, as set out in paragraph 15 of the Plan of Implementation, and to bring forward at the next special session of the Governing Council/Global Environment Ministerial Forum, in 2004, a report on its activities, with regular reporting thereafter;

9. Requests the Executive Director to report to the Commission on Sustainable Development, as appropriate, on the progress of the work done;

10. Invites Governments to provide financial and technical assistance and capacity-building to enable developing countries and countries with economies in transition, especially least developed countries, to take an active part in these activities.

12th meeting
7 February 2003

22/7. Engaging business and industry

The Governing Council,

Recalling chapter 30 of Agenda 21,[4] Malmö Ministerial Declaration[8] and its decision 21/18 of 9 February 2001 on the implementation of that Declaration,

Recalling paragraphs 27 and 29 of the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[14] and paragraphs 17 and 18 of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development[1] calling for greater corporate environmental and social responsibility,

Recalling in particular paragraph 49 of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, which provides: "Actively promote corporate responsibility and accountability, based on the Rio principles, including through the full development and effective implementation of intergovernmental agreements and measures, international initiatives and public-private partnerships and appropriate national regulations, and support continuous improvement in corporate practices in all countries",

Recognizing the different levels of development in various countries and therefore their different capacities for integrating environmentally sound policies into their social and economic responsibilities,

Taking note of the actions taken by the United Nations Environment Programme to engage business and industry in action to advance environmentally sound policies, strategies, practices and technologies,

Emphasizing the supplementary role of partnerships involving all relevant major stakeholders, including business, in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and in delivering global sustainable development, and recalling in particular paragraphs 3 and 140 (b) of the Plan of Implementation and paragraphs 26 and 34 of the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development,

Recognizing that Governments have a crucial role in creating an enabling environment, through maintaining effective institutional and regulatory capacity,

Bearing in mind related Governing Council decisions on sustainable patterns of production and consumption and environmentally and socially responsible behaviour, including decision 22/19 adopted by the Governing Council at the current session,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.22/3) on policy responses of the United Nations Environment Programme to tackle emerging environmental problems, in particular those engaging business and industry,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the work of the United Nations Environment Programme in engaging business and industry to further develop corporate environmental and social responsibility, accountability and transparency;

2. Requests member States to submit to the Executive Director by 1 October 2003 elements for guidelines for cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and business and industry, and for the Executive Director to distribute such proposed elements to all Member States by 15 November 2003, in order for the United Nations Environment Programme to begin the development of consistent guidelines, subject to the subsequent approval of the Governing Council as recommended in the Guidelines for Cooperation between the United Nations and the Business Community issued by the Secretary-General of the United Nations;

3. Requests the Executive Director to further develop the work of the United Nations Environment Programme in this area and to keep Governments informed on further progress made in engaging business and industry through partnership initiatives, multi-stakeholder dialogue, consultative meetings with associations, the development of training and information materials, the advancement of sustainability reporting in all industry sectors and outreach activities in all regions to advance responsible corporate citizenship.

10th meeting
7 February 2003

22/8. Further improvement of environmental emergency prevention, preparedness, assessment, response and mitigation

The Governing Council,

Recalling the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme,[7]

Recalling also that the Malmö Ministerial Declaration[8] underscored increasing environmental emergencies as one of the major environmental challenges of the twenty-first century,

Acknowledging the value prevention, assessment and early warning, preparedness and response have in reducing the impact of environmental emergencies and noting that the Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies on the Local Level programme provides an important framework for awareness and preparedness for emergencies at the local level,

Expressing its satisfaction with the continued positive collaboration between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to enhance the ability of the international community to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition to respond to environmental emergencies,

Aware of the value of regional cooperation between countries in cases of environmental emergencies involving or threatening several countries,

Mindful of its decisions 21/17 of 9 February 2001, 20/8 of 5 February 1999, 19/9 E of 7 February 1997, 18/9 of 22 May 1995 and SS.V/2 of 22 May 1998,

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director in implementing decision 21/17 in documents UNEP/GC.22/3 and UNEP/GC.22/INF/5, specifically concerning an analysis of the causes and long-term environmental effects of emergencies the United Nations Environment Programme has worked on and the possible policy implications for national Governments and the international community;

2. Welcomes the findings of the report including the recommendations set out in chapter III of the report;

3. Invites Governments and relevant United Nations agencies and bodies, other international organizations and non-governmental organizations to continue their cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme in its efforts to provide assistance to countries, particularly to developing countries and to countries with economies in transition, to prevent, prepare for and respond to environmental emergencies;

4. Also welcomes the actions being undertaken by the Joint Environment Unit of the United Nations Environment Programme/Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, as well as that of the advisory group on environmental emergencies, in particular its partnership programme on an integrated approach to prevention, preparedness and response to environmental emergencies in support of sustainable development;

5. Recommends to Governments that they develop and improve prevention, preparedness and response arrangements including policies and institutions, to the extent feasible so as to enable them to deal with environmental emergencies;

6. Urges Governments to develop as appropriate joint contingency arrangements on a regional, subregional or bilateral basis if they have not already done so;

7. Expresses its appreciation to Governments contributing to the General Trust Fund for Environmental Emergencies and further urges Governments and international organizations which are in a position to do so, to contribute to the General Trust Fund for Environmental Emergencies;

8. Invites States that have not yet signed, ratified or acceded to existing conventions, protocols and legal instruments which may have a bearing on environmental emergency prevention, preparedness, assessment, response and mitigation, to consider doing so expeditiously and to proceed with their implementation and enforcement;

9. Requests the Executive Director to establish a process, with the participation of Governments, for the regular review of the Strategic Framework on Emergency Prevention, Preparedness, Assessment, Mitigation and Response and to facilitate the implementation of its Agenda for Action;

10. Also requests the Executive Director, in close cooperation with other relevant agencies, to develop and pursue programmes on capacity-building with respect to improving the ability of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to prevent, prepare for and respond to environmental emergencies;

11. Requests the Executive Director to provide, within the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, support to refugee hosting countries in undertaking assessments and rehabilitating environments, including ecosystems and habitats, that have been damaged in the process of receiving and re-settling refugees, through inter-agency cooperation frameworks;

12. Encourages the Executive Director to continue activities in cooperation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refuges to minimize the adverse environmental impacts of refugees on recipient countries;

13. Decides that work on capacity-building should focus in the first instance on those regions in most need of assistance, consistent with the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development; [1]

14. Urges the Executive Director to take steps to support the regional offices as appropriate in the development and implementation of these capacity-building programmes that would assist in promoting regional arrangements for dealing with environmental emergencies;

15. Requests the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its next regular session on the progress made in the field of environmental emergencies.

10th meeting
7 February 2003

22/9. Support for Africa

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 20/27 of 5 February 1999 and 21/15 of 9 February 2001 on support for Africa,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration[3] in which the international community committed itself to supporting Africa in achieving sustainable development and environmental protection,

Recalling the commitment made at the World Trade Organization's Fourth Ministerial Conference,[28] held in Doha from 9 to 14 November 2001, and at the International Conference on Financing for Development,[12] Monterrey, Mexico from 18 to 22 March 2002,

Recalling chapter VIII of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,[1] on Africa,

Welcoming the establishment of the African Union during the Summit of the Organization of African Unity in Lusaka, in July 2001,

Welcoming also the adoption during the Organization of African Unity Summit in Lusaka, of the New Partnership for Africa's Development as a common African vision and agreed platform to address the challenges facing Africa with a view to achieving sustainable development for the benefit of present and future generations,

Noting with satisfaction that the Group of Eight Summit held in June 2002 in Kananaskis, Canada, devoted parts of its deliberations to the New Partnership for Africa's Development, which resulted in the adoption of the Group of Eight Africa Action Plan;

Noting the United Nations Declaration on the New Partnership for Africa's Development[6] adopted during the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly, in resolution 57/2 of 16 September 2002,

Noting also General Assembly resolution 57/7 of 4 November 2002 on the final review and appraisal of the new agenda for the development of Africa in the 1990s and support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development, which, inter alia, endorsed the recommendation of the United Nations Secretary-General that the New Partnership for Africa's Development should be the framework within which the international community, including the United Nations system, should concentrate its efforts for Africa's development,

Noting further that the New Partnership for Africa's Development will be implemented largely through national mechanisms and subregional economic communities in Africa with the support of the African Development Bank and other partners, including the multilateral development banks,

Welcoming the establishment by African Ministers in charge of water management of the African Ministerial Conference on Water,

Noting recent state-of-the-environment reports, such as the Global Environment Outlook report of the United Nations Environment Programme on the escalating and emerging environmental problems in the world,

Noting, in particular, the Africa Environment Outlook report which draws attention to the increasing number of emerging and crisis situations in Africa as a result of global environmental changes with adverse social, cultural and economic effects,

Taking note of the Kampala Declaration on the Environment and Development[29] adopted by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment at its ninth session, held in Kampala from 3 to 5 July 2002, related to the lack of capacity of African countries to implement multilateral environmental agreements,

Taking note also of decisions of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment taken at its ninth session, on the Framework for an Action Plan for the Environment Initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development and on the regular production of the Africa Environment Outlook report and the launch of the Africa Environment Information Network,[30]

Welcoming the commendable efforts by the Executive Director in the implementation of Governing Council decisions 20/27 and 21/15 on support to Africa,

1. Requests the Executive Director to continue to support the implementation of Governing Council decisions 20/27 and 21/15, particularly within the framework of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, the newly established African Union and in the context of the development and implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;

2. Requests the Executive Director to establish working relationships with the specialized technical committees of the African Union, particularly the Technical Committee on Industry, Science and Technology, Natural Resources and Environment, in order to facilitate the integration of environmental issues in the work of the institutional dispensation of the African Union and the New Partnership for Africa's Development, as appropriate;

3. Requests the Executive Director to work closely with partners, especially the subregional economic communities in Africa, the African Development Bank and other United Nations organizations to support African countries in implementing the United Nations Declaration on the New Partnership for Africa's Development;

4. Requests the Executive Director, in particular, to continue to assist in the development of the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development and to support African countries in the implementation of certain programme areas of that initiative, where it has comparative advantage;

5. Requests the Executive Director to support the regular production of the Africa Environment Outlook report and the establishment of the Africa Environment Information Network, as called for by the ninth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, as well as to support the celebrations of the African Environment Day on 3 March each year, subject to availability of resources;

6. Further requests the Executive Director to support the newly established African Ministerial Conference on Water within available resources;

7. Requests the Executive Director, in collaboration with the Environmental Management Group, and within the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme to support the work of any Economic and Social Council ad hoc advisory group, established in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2002/1, upon the request of the said advisory group;

8. Requests the Executive Director to develop and promote, in Africa, understanding of the linkages between poverty, health, trade and the environment, as a means of making people's livelihoods more productive and environmentally sustainable, including the elaboration of appropriate policy options to integrate environment issues in social and economic processes, including poverty reduction strategies where applicable;

9. Calls upon African Governments to take primary action and responsibility for the sustainable development of their respective countries;

10. Calls upon all Governments and the donor community to enhance their support to the implementation of priority programmes of the New Partnership for Africa's Development and the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment through, inter alia, contributions to the General Trust Fund for the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment;

11. Requests the Executive Director to mobilize resources to assist African countries, in collaboration with Governments especially from developed countries and relevant organizations in a position to do so, in the preparations for the conferences of the parties to multilateral environmental agreements in order to strengthen the capacity of African negotiators for these multilateral environmental agreements by providing financial support for regional meetings;

12. Calls upon the Executive Director to strengthen the United Nations Environment Programme collaboration with United Nations organizations working in Africa in general in order to improve environmental management and with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in particular to improve environmental conditions in human settlements in the region;

13. Takes note of the progress made by the Executive Director in the revitalization of the Nairobi Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Eastern African Region and the Abidjan Convention for Cooperation in the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region by the successful launch of the African process on the development and management of the coastal and marine environment, and requests him to continue strengthening the two conventions through the implementation of the proposed priority projects developed by the African Process, and contained in the Cape Town Declaration on an African Process for the Development and Protection of the Coastal and Marine Environment, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa;[31]

14. Requests the Executive Director to report on the progress made and the results achieved in this regard to the Committee of Permanent Representatives and the next session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum.

10th meeting
7 February 2003

22/10. Poverty and the environment in Africa

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 21/15 of 9 February 2001 on support to Africa and particularly its request to the Executive Director to develop and to promote understanding of the linkages between poverty and the environment,

Acknowledging the millennium development goals and in particular goal 1: to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger,

Having considered paragraph 11 of the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[14] which recognizes poverty eradication as an essential requirement for sustainable development, and having reviewed chapter II of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development[1] and its specific actions towards poverty eradication,

Recalling paragraph 7 of the Malmö Ministerial Declaration,[8] which recognizes that the integration of environmental considerations in decision-making is necessary to confront the underlying causes of poverty,

Noting the adoption by the African Union in 2001 of the New Partnership for Africa's Development initiative and welcoming the 2002 endorsement of the initiative by the General Assembly,

Taking into consideration the discussion paper presented by the Executive Director on the living natural resource base to fight poverty: United Nations Environment Programme's contribution to the biodiversity commitments of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (UNEP/GC.22/8/Add.3),

Recognizing the work completed by the Executive Director in response to its decision 21/15 of 9 February 2001, as contained in the document on poverty and ecosystems: synthesis of a conceptual framework (UNEP/GC.22/INF/30/Rev.1),

1. Calls upon all Govenments, international organizations, donor organizations and major groups to actively work towards fulfilling the actions committed to in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development on poverty eradication, as well as operationalizing the world solidarity fund, which was endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly in its resolution 57/265 of 20 December 2002, and requests the Executive Director to develop a strategy for the implementation of those actions within the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme;

2. Recognizes the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in poverty eradication by addressing its root causes through the promotion of holistic environmental management that takes into account human well-being;

3. Requests the Executive Director, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme and other organizations, in particular the New Partnership for Africa's Development and the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, to explore opportunities for greater cooperation with the African Union on the New Partnership for Africa's Development initiative and to provide input on the linkages between poverty and the environment as a means of ensuring improved understanding with the ultimate goal of poverty eradication and sustainable development for Africa;

4. Requests the Executive Director and the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to continue the work of the United Nations Environment Programme in promoting greater understanding of the linkages between poverty and the environment and, with this understanding, to assist Governments upon their request to integrate environmental decision-making into social and economic policy towards poverty eradication. In that regard, the United Nations Environment Programme paper on poverty - environment road map (UNEP/GC.22/INF/30) should be used as a guide;

5. Also requests the Executive Director, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme and other organizations, in particular the New Partnership for Africa's Development and the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, to operationalize the conceptual framework on poverty and ecosystems using the information contained in document UNEP/GC.22/INF/30 as a guide and to test the approach through country studies with a focus on Africa, working through the New Partnership for Africa's Development, towards the development of country-specific, poverty–environment strategies. Participating countries are encouraged to involve all relevant ministries and other stakeholders in their national strategy development to ensure national ownership;

6. Further requests the Executive Director to report on progress made and results achieved through the United Nations Environment Programme's poverty–environment activities to the next session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum.

11th meeting
7 February 2003

22/11. Sustainable development of the Arctic

The Governing Council,

Recognizing the increasing global importance of the Arctic in a global environmental context,

Noting with satisfaction the inclusion of concerns relevant to the Arctic in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,[1] especially those dealing with ocean issues, sustainable use of natural resources, the eradication of poverty among indigenous communities, the impact of climate change, persistent organic pollutants and heavy metals,

Recognizing the important work of the Arctic Council in protecting the environment and supporting sustainable development in the Arctic,

Noting the relevance of both the United Nations Environment Programme's global assessment of mercury and persistent organic pollutants, and the third Global Environment Outlook report to the Arctic region,

Welcoming the cooperation agreement between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Arctic University,

Also welcoming the work by the Global Resource Information Database at Arendal, the key polar centre of the United Nations Environment Programme, on preparation of information on environment and sustainable development issues in the Arctic, in particular those relating to health and the environment for indigenous people, prepared in cooperation with the World Health Organization,

1. Encourages continued cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Arctic Council, Arctic parliamentarians, the Indigenous Peoples Secretariat and the private sector, and continued support from the United Nations Environment Programme as an implementing agency of the Global Environment Facility funded portfolio of projects addressing water, climate change, biological diversity, pollution and health issues in the Arctic;

2. Requests the Executive Director to provide continuous assessments and early warning on emerging issues related to the Arctic environment, in particular its impact on the global environment.

10th meeting
7 February 2003

22/12. Brussels Declaration and Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010

The Governing Council,

Recalling the endorsement by the General Assembly, in its resolution 55/279 of 12 July 2001, of the Brussels Declaration[32] and Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,[33] as adopted by the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Brussels from 14 to 20 May 2001,

Recalling further resolution 2002/33 of 26 July 2002 of the Economic and Social Council, General Assembly resolutions 56/227 of 24 December 2001 and 57/276 of 17 December 2002, in which the United Nations system and other multilateral organizations were invited to mainstream the implementation of the Brussels Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 within their programmes of work,

1. Notes with appreciation the support given by the United Nations Environment Programme to the least developed countries;

2. Stresses the importance of coordination and cooperation with the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States;

3. Resolves that the United Nations Environment Programme should continue to give special attention to the least developed countries as well as to landlocked developing countries and small island developing States in its programme activities, with a focus on the effective implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action within the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme;

4. Invites the Executive Director to take the necessary steps to ensure that implementation of the Programme of Action is fully included in the programme activities of the United Nations Environment Programme as well as in its intergovernmental processes within the mandate and available resources of the United Nations Environment Programme.

10th meeting
7 February 2003

22/13. Small island developing States

The Governing Council,

Recalling that chapter 17 of Agenda 21[4] recognized that small island developing States are especially vulnerable and fragile and are a special case for sustainable development,

Recalling that the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States[34] clearly identified specific actions to address the sustainable development of small island developing States,

Further recalling that chapter VII of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development[1] recognizes that the sustainable development of small island developing States is increasingly constrained by the interplay of adverse factors clearly underlined in Agenda 21, the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the decisions adopted at the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly,[35] and calls for a full and comprehensive review of the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States in 2004, in accordance with the provisions set forth in General Assembly resolution 57/262 of 20 December 2002,

Noting General Assembly resolution 57/262 which calls for appropriate modalities to be put in place and the resources identified for the full and effective participation of small island developing States in the 2004 review meeting, which is to be held in Mauritius,

Recognizing the need to ensure the coherent implementation of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development at the regional and subregional levels,

Recognizing that the United Nations Environment Programme has a key role to play in the pursuit of the sustainable development goals of small island developing States and in the development of effective programmes to provide support for those countries in attaining their goals,

Also recognizing the need for greater transparency and predictability in the financial and technical support provided for the implementation of programmes at the regional and subregional levels,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the actions of the United Nations Environment Programme to implement the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (UNEP/GC.22/5),

Having also considered the report of the Executive Director on the review of the water policy and strategy of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/GC.22/2/Add.3),

Having further considered the discussion paper presented by the Executive Director for the ministerial-level consultations on the regional implementation of the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (UNEP/GC.22/8 and Corr.1),

1. Decides to strengthen the institutional capacity of small island developing States to effectively achieve the sustainable development goals outlined in the Programme of Action through the provision of dedicated technical and financial support;

2. Welcomes the efforts of the Executive Director to provide funding for United Nations Environment Programme activities related to small island developing States and requests the Executive Director to continue to increase funding for those activities during the biennium during 2004-2005, in particular in connection with the preparation for and the implementation of the outcomes of the international meeting to be held in Mauritius in 2004;

3. Also decides to provide focused support for the development and execution of partnership initiatives presented within the context of implementation of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development;

4. Requests the Executive Director to identify appropriate modalities for the effective implementation of the recommendations contained in operative paragraphs 1 to 3 of the present decision;

5. Also requests the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its eighth special session on the results of the recommendation contained in operative paragraph 4 of the present decision.

11th meeting
7 February 2003

22/14. Role of the United Nations Environment Programme in strengthening regional activities and cooperation in the Economic Cooperation Organization region

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 20/39 of 4 February 1999 on the functioning of the regional offices and proposed measures for the strengthening of regionalization and decentralization,

Reaffirming the relevant decisions and conclusions of the seventh special session of the Governing Council in support of regional initiatives,

Reiterating the relevant provisions of the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[14] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,[1]

Stressing the need to reinforce the existing regional arrangements in achieving the goals of sustainable development,

Taking into account the discussion paper presented by the Executive Director on regional implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (UNEP/GC.22/8 and Corr.1),

1. Welcomes the outcome of the first Environment Ministerial Meeting of the Economic Cooperation Organization, held in Tehran on 15 December 2002, and which was attended by the Executive Director;

2. Requests the Executive Director to support and promote the subregional environmental initiatives of the Economic Cooperation Organization region;

3. Also requests the Executive Director to promote the work of the respective regional offices and increase their financial capacities for fulfilling the goals of capacity-building and technology transfer to the Economic Cooperation Organization member countries;

4. Further requests the Executive Director to establish and reinforce linkages and partnerships among other relevant United Nations bodies, development banks, and Bretton Woods institutions to enable the regional offices and Economic Cooperation Organization member countries to deliver the relevant programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme in the region effectively;

5. Calls upon Governments to contribute to the work of the United Nations Environment Programme in the Economic Cooperation Organization region as far as regional offices are concerned;

6. Requests the Executive Director to submit a progress report on the implementation of the present decision to the next meeting of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum.

11th meeting
7 February 2003

22/15. International year of deserts and desertification

The Governing Council,

Recalling chapter 12 of Agenda 21[4] adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

Recalling also the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,

Further recalling the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development[1] as well as the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[14] adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development,

Recalling also the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development,

Deeply concerned by the exacerbation of desertification, particularly in Africa and its far-reaching implications for the implementation of the millennium development goal on poverty alleviation,

Conscious of the need to raise public awareness and to protect the biological diversity of deserts as well as indigenous and local communities and the traditional knowledge of those affected by this phenomenon,

1. Invites the General Assembly to consider:

(a) Declaring an international year of deserts and desertification as soon as possible;

(b) Designating the United Nations Environment Programme as focal point of the international year of deserts and desertification in conjunction with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa and the United Nations Development Programme;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to designate a special representative for the international year of deserts and desertification, in the event that the international year is declared;

3. Invites all countries concerned to establish national committees and to celebrate the international year by arranging appropriate activities;

4. Calls upon all relevant international organizations and developed countries in a position to do so, to support the activities to be organized by affected countries, in particular African countries and least developed countries.

11th meeting
7 February 2003

22/16. Environment and cultural diversity

The Governing Council,

Recalling the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development[1] which states that biodiversity, which plays a critical role in overall sustainable development and poverty eradication, is essential to our planet, human well-being and to the livelihood and cultural integrity of people,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[3] which considers tolerance among fundamental values essential to international relations in the twenty-first century, and which states that a culture of peace and dialogue among all civilizations should be actively promoted,

Reaffirming that, according to the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development as well as General Assembly resolution 57/260 of 20 December 2002, the Convention on Biological Diversity is the key instrument for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources,

Recognizing ecotourism as being an effective resource for unlocking the potential for sustainable development and poverty alleviation in endangered areas by striking a balance between the protection of biodiversity and the maintenance of cultural diversity, with special regard to local and indigenous communities,

Aware of the specific mandate which was entrusted to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, within the United Nations system, to ensure the preservation and promotion of the fruitful diversity of cultures,

Welcoming the cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,

Requests the Executive Director, subject to availability of voluntary funds, to examine the issue, inter alia, by conducting a survey, in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and relevant stakeholders, on the state of current work and possible developments on environment and cultural diversity, with particular attention to human well-being, and to report back to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its twenty-third session for its consideration.

11th meeting
7 February 2003

22/17. Governance and law

I

Follow-up to General Assembly resolution 57/251 on the report of the seventh special session of the United Nations Environment Programme Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme[7] and the Malmö Ministerial Declaration,[8]

Also recalling General Assembly resolutions 55/200 of 20 December 2000, 56/193 of 21 December 2001 and in particular 57/251 of 20 December 2002,

Recalling the Plan of implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,[1] in particular chapter X on means of implementation, which emphasizes the need for enhancing the provisions on support to developing countries and countries with economies in transition for capacity-building as well as the provisions on technical and technological support,

Also recalling that several of the multilateral environmental agreements have specific articles on the need for transfer of technology and capacity-building, as well as a number of decisions that specify these obligations,

Taking note of the initial efforts made by the United Nations Environment Programme to initiate a process for the development of an intergovernmental strategic plan for technology support and capacity-building,

1. Notes the invitation of the General Assembly to Member States, the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme and relevant bodies of the United Nations system to submit to the Secretariat their comments on the important but complex issue of establishing universal membership of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, including its legal, political, institutional, financial and system-wide implications and requesting that the Secretary-General submit a report incorporating those views to the General Assembly, for consideration before its sixtieth session;

2. Requests the Executive Director, in the framework of the implementation of paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 57/251, to:

(a) Invite Governments to submit written comments on the subject by 31 October 2003;

(b) Submit a report incorporating those comments from Governments to the eighth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, in 2004, for its consideration;

3. Notes the launching of the pilot phase for a voluntary indicative scale of contributions aimed at enhancing predictability in financing the programme of work and broadening the base of contributions;

4. Notes that an increase in funding from the United Nations regular budget for the United Nations Office at Nairobi and/or the United Nations Environment Programme in the biennium 2004-2005 would decrease the requirement under the Environment Fund biennial support budget and the released resources would be reallocated for the programme activities and/or the Environment Fund financial reserve;

5. Welcomes the position of the United Nations General Assembly which, by its resolution 57/251, reiterated the need for stable, adequate and predictable financial resources for the United Nations Environment Programme, and in this regard and in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2997(XXVII) underlined the need to consider adequate reflection of all administrative and management costs of the United Nations Environment Programme in the context of the United Nations regular budget;

6. Requests the Executive Director, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme, the Global Environment Facility and other relevant organizations, in compliance with decision SS.VII/1, paragraphs 33 and 34, to develop an intergovernmental strategic plan for technology support and capacity-building and submit a draft strategic plan to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its eighth special session in 2004. The draft strategic plan should be based on input from States, both at the regional and the national level, to incorporate national and regional priorities;

7. Requests the Executive Director to report on progress in the implementation of the present decision to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its eighth special session.

II

Implementation of the Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law by the First Decade of the Twenty-first Century

A

Follow-up to the Global Judges Symposium focusing on capacity-building in the area of environmental law

The Governing Council,

Recalling the Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law for the First Decade of the Twenty-first Century[36] and its decision 21/23 of 9 February 2001, which called on the Executive Director to promote the effective implementation of, compliance with and enforcement of environmental law, and towards this end to strengthen the capacity of various stakeholders, including members of the judiciary,

Recalling the six regional judges' symposiums on environmental law convened by the United Nations Environment Programme in collaboration with several partner agencies in Africa, South Asia, South-east Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean and the Pacific Island States during the period 1996-2001, which laid a strong foundation for judicial capacity-building in the regions and which called on the United Nations Environment Programme to convene a global judges' symposium on the role of law and sustainable development,

Taking note of regional experiences of the United Nations Environment Programme in the development of environmental laws,

Noting with appreciation the convening of the Global Judges' Symposium on the Role of Law and Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, from 18 to 20 August 2002, with the participation of over 122 high-ranking judges from more than 60 countries around the world, and noting the adoption by them by acclamation of the Johannesburg Principles on the Role of Law and Sustainable Development[37] as a contribution from the Global Judges' Symposium to the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and the presentation of the Johannesburg Principles to the Secretary-General of the United Nations by the Chief Justice of South Africa,

Taking note of the report of the Executive Director on the Global Judges' Symposium on the Role of Law and Sustainable Development and its outcome (UNEP/GC.22/INF/24),

Recognizing the existing expertise of relevant organizations working at the international, regional, national and local levels in the field of environmental law,

1. Extends its deep appreciation to the Government of South Africa and the host of the Global Symposium, the Chief Justice of South Africa, for the excellent arrangements made for the successful conduct of the Symposium, and to the Executive Director for taking this important initiative;

2. Calls on the Executive Director to support, within the framework of the Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law for the First Decade of the Twenty-first Century and within available resources, the improvement of the capacity of those involved in the process of promoting, implementing, developing and enforcing environmental law at the national and local levels such as judges, prosecutors legislators and other relevant stakeholder, to carry out their functions on a well informed basis with the necessary skills, information and material with a view to mobilizing the full potential of the judiciaries around the world for the implementation and enforcement of environmental law, and promoting access to justice for the settlement of environmental disputes, public participation in environmental decision-making, the protection and advancement of environmental rights and public access to relevant information;

3. Encourages Governments and international financial institutions to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition by providing funding for capacity-building as described in operative paragraph 2 above;

4. Encourages the Executive Director to work in partnership with relevant organizations in the design and implementation of these capacity-building activities;

5. Requests the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council, at its twenty-third session, on progress in the implementation of the present decision.

B

Enhancing the application of principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development

The Governing Council,

Recalling principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[38] the Malmö Ministerial Declaration,[8] and its decisions 20/4 of 4 February 1999, 20/6 of 5 February 1999 and 21/24 of 9 February 2001,

Recalling the report of the Executive Director prepared in pursuance of decision 20/4 on the law and practice relating to access to information on the environment, public participation in processes leading to decision-making and access to judicial and administrative procedures relating to environmental matters, and the report on international instruments reflecting principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, prepared in pursuance of decision 21/24, as presented to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its seventh special session,

Taking note of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development[1] in particular paragraphs 162 to 167,

Noting recent developments at national, regional and international levels in the application of principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,

1. Notes, with appreciation, the action taken by the Executive Director to provide policy and advisory services in key areas of institution-building in support of developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

2. Requests the Executive Director to intensify efforts in the provision of policy and advisory services in key areas of capacity and institution-building, including access to information regarding legislation, regulations, activities, policies and programmes, and public participation in sustainable development policy formulation and implementation, including the promotion of public participation at the local and national levels in policy and programme development and implementation and in support of efforts by Governments, in response to requests, in cooperation with other organizations active in this field for assistance in the application of principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development at the local and national levels;

3. Requests the Executive Director to assess the possibility of promoting, at the national and international levels, the application of principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and determine, inter alia, if there is value in initiating an intergovernmental process for the preparation of global guidelines on the application of principle 10;

4. Invites Governments and relevant intergovernmental and civil society organizations to participate actively in the above process, and invites those who are in a position to do so to provide financial or other contributions in support of the process;

5. Requests the Executive Director to submit a report to the Governing Council at its twenty-third session on the progress made in the preparation of the guidelines.

C

Status of international conventions and protocols in the field of the environment

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the status of international conventions and protocols in the field of the environment (UNEP/GC.22/3/Add.2) and the note of the Executive Director on changes to the status of ratification of and/or accession to conventions and protocols in the field of the environment (UNEP/GC.22/INF/12),

Recalling its decision 24 (III) of 30 April 1975 and General Assembly resolution 3436 (XXX) of 9 December 1975,

1. Invites States that have not yet done so to consider signing, ratifying or acceding to conventions and protocols in the field of the environment expeditiously and to proceed with their implementation;

2. Calls on States and organizations that are in a position to do so to provide the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme with information on new conventions and protocols in the field of the environment as well as information on any changes to the status of the existing conventions and protocols in the field of the environment;

3. Authorizes the Executive Director to transmit chapter VI of the report of the Executive Director and the note of the Executive Director, on its behalf, together with comments made by delegations thereon, especially on the need for institutional capacity-building, to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session, in accordance with resolution 3436 (XXX).

D

Implementation of the Montevideo Programme III

The Governing Council,

Requests the Executive Director to provide to the Governing Council at its twenty-third session a comprehensive report on the implementation of the Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law for the First Decade of the Twenty-first Century, (Montevideo Programme III).[36]

10th and 12th meetings
7 February 2003

22/18. Civil society

I

Amendment to rule 69 of the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council

The Governing Council

Recalling the requirements of rules 70 and 71 of the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council, and pursuant to decision SS.VII/5 of 15 February 2002 of its seventh special session, held in Cartagena, Colombia, on enhancing civil society engagement in the work of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, in particular its section IV, paragraph 5; chapter 28 of Agenda 21;[4] the United Nations Millennium Declaration; General Assembly resolution 55/162 of 14 December 2000 concerning the follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Assembly; Governing Council decisions 18/4 of 26 May 1995 and 21/19 of 9 February 2001; and paragraph 14 of the Malmö Ministerial Declaration,[8]

Noting with appreciation the work of the Committee of Permanent Representatives as a working party in examining the amendment to rule 69 of the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council,

Decides that the Committee of Permanent Representatives should continue its work as mandated by decision SS.VII/5 on enhancing the engagement of civil society in the work of the United Nations Environment Programme in considering the amendment of rule 69 of the Rules of Procedure and any consequential amendments of the Rules of Procedure, taking into account the evolving relationship between civil society and the United Nations system and the ongoing United Nations reform process.

II

Long-term strategy on engagement and involvement of young people in environmental issues

The Governing Council,

Recalling the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond,[39] especially paragraphs 64 to 72 thereof, which stress the importance of engaging and supporting youth in environmental work, as well as paragraphs 104 to 107, emphasizing the full and effective participation of youth in the life of society and decision-making,

Also recalling chapter 25 of Agenda 21,[4] which states, inter alia, that the specific interests of children need to be taken fully into account in the participatory process on environment and development in order to safeguard the future sustainability of any actions taken to improve the environment,

Recalling the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,[1] which requested Governments and the international community to develop the capacity of civil society, including youth, to participate, as appropriate, in designing, implementing and reviewing sustainable development policies and strategies at all levels,

Also recalling its decision 21/22 of 9 February 2001, which requested the Executive Director to develop a long-term strategy on how the Programme intended to engage and involve young people worldwide in environmental issues and debates,

Noting the United Nations Environment Programme's work with young people, including the International Children's Conference on the Environment, the Global Youth Forum, the Global Youth Retreat, promotional activities and publications for young people and global and regional networks and list servers for young people, and noting also the need to further enhance young people's involvement in environmental issues,

1. Welcomes the long-term strategy presented by the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.22/3/Add.1/Rev.1), and decides to endorse the activities contained therein and to encourage further elaboration and development of international programmes, specifically developing clear links and synergies with programmes of other United Nations bodies and other relevant organizations working on the topic, specifying the different needs of education, awareness-building projects and engagement that such a strategy must have;

2. Decides to implement the strategy, including through regional and subregional activities;

3. Requests the Executive Director to seek extrabudgetary resources, including establishing a trust fund, for the purpose of implementing the strategy, with support to developing countries for the development of local training programmes;

4. Invites Governments in a position to do so, to provide extrabudgetary resources, both financial and human, for the implementation of the strategy, and also invites the Executive Director to seek additional private sector funding to ensure full implementation of the strategy;

5. Also requests the Executive Director to present a mid-term progress report on the implementation of the strategy, at the ninth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, in 2006, and to present a final report on the implementation of the strategy at the twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, in 2009;

6. Invites Governments to develop programmes to sensitize and educate youth in sustainable development, particularly in environmental matters.

III

Long-term strategy for sport and the environment

The Governing Council,

Recognizing the fact that sport is both affected by and affects the environment, and that it has the ability to mobilize millions of people to support and participate in sustainable development issues,

Noting the Secretary-General's initiative to promote the use of sport for the implementation of the United Nations millennium development goals,

Also noting the United Nations Environment Programme's work in sport and the environment which includes extensive cooperation with the International Olympic Committee, the biennial Global Forum for Sport and the Environment, United Nations Environment Programme publications, and the Nature and Sport Training Camps for young people in underprivileged communities,

Appreciating the strategy provided by the Executive Director, outlining the future direction of the United Nations Environment Programme's sport and environment programme (UNEP/GC.22/3/Add.3/Rev.1),

Also appreciating the fact that in addition to its ongoing work in this field, the United Nations Environment Programme will also focus on recreational sport activities such as jogging, walking, hiking, skiing, swimming, cycling and mountaineering to promote environmental awareness, as well as on popular sports events such as football, tennis, golf, rugby, cricket, hockey and motor sports to further promote environmental actions,

Noting the links between the Tunza programme[40] and the Michezo programme[41] and the fact that the Executive Director has consolidated the two programmes into one functional unit,

1. Endorses the activities contained in the strategy for the United Nations Environment Programme's sport and environment programme;

2. Requests the Executive Director to explore ways of expanding the United Nations Environment Programme's efforts in this important field and to explore increasing resources from the Environment Fund to the programme and to seek extrabudgetary resources to further support the programme;

3. Encourages Governments to provide extrabudgetary support to the United Nations Environment Programme's work on sports and the environment, particularly for community and leadership training programmes on sport and the environment for young people in developing countries and for supporting organizers of major sport events such as the Olympic Games to fully integrate environmental issues in their preparations and staging of the events;

4. Requests Governments to inform the United Nations Environment Programme of any sport and environment activities being undertaken in their countries so that the Programme can share the information with the public and other countries through its sport and environment web site.

10th and 11th meetings
7 February 2003

22/19. Amendments to the instrument for the establishment of the restructured Global Environment Facility

The Governing Council,

Recalling the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environmental Facility (UNEP/GCSS.IV/2),

Recalling its decision SS.IV/1 of 18 June 1994 on the adoption of the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility,

Recalling the decision of the Second Global Environment Facility Assembly, held in Beijing from 14 to 18 October 2002, on the amendment to the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility,

1. Decides to adopt the amendments to the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility which include land degradation, primarily desertification and deforestation, and persistent organic pollutants as new focal areas of the Global Environment Facility, as adopted by the Second Global Environment Facility Assembly;

2. Requests the Executive Director to transmit the present decision to the Chief Executive Officer/Chairperson of the Global Environment Facility.

10th meeting
7 February 2003

22/20. Environment Fund budget: proposed biennial programme and support budget for 2004-2005

The Governing Council,

Having considered the proposed biennial programme and support budget for 2004-2005, as contained in document UNEP/GC.22/6, and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (UNEP/GC.22/6/Add.1),

1. Approves the programme of work for the biennium 2004-2005, taking into account the relevant decisions of the Governing Council;[42]

2. Approves appropriations for the Environment Fund in the amount of $130 million for the purposes indicated below:

2004-2005 Biennial programme and support budget
(Thousands of United States dollars)

Programme	
Environmental assessment and early warning	22,150
Policy development and law	16,251
Policy implementation	9,720
Technology, industry and economics	23,754
Regional cooperation and representation	22,925
Environmental conventions	7,975
Communications and public information	7,225
Total programme of work	**110,000**
Fund programme reserve	**5,000**
Support budget	**15,000**
Grand total	**130,000**

3. Requests the Executive Director to ensure that all Fund programme activities, as approved by the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, are provided with resources from the Environment Fund;

4. Reconfirms the authority of the Executive Director to reallocate resources between programmes up to a maximum of 20 per cent of the actual appropriation to which the resources are reallocated;

5. Urges the Executive Director to further increase the level of the financial reserve to $20 million as and when carry-over resources become available over and above those needed to implement the programme approved for the bienniums 2002-2003 and 2004-2005;

6. Authorizes the Executive Director to adjust, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, the level of allocations for programme activities to bring it into line with possible variations in income compared to the approved level of appropriations;

7. Recommends that the Executive Director, in light of possible financial constraints, take a cautious approach to the creation of additional posts under the Environment Fund programme;

8. Requests the Executive Director to keep Governments specifically informed, through the Committee of Permanent Representatives on a quarterly basis and the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its regular and special sessions, of the execution of the budget of the Environment Fund including contributions and expenditures and of reallocations of the appropriations or adjustments of the allocations;

9. Notes that the proposed 2004-2005 budget has been formulated in line with the harmonized budget format and results-based budgeting approach adopted by the United Nations Secretariat, and that the previous recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions have been fully taken into account;

10. Requests the Executive Director to continue to apply the harmonized budget format, or refinements thereof, in the presentation of future biennial budgets and programmes of work in line with relevant United Nations rules and procedures;

11. Welcomes the extensive consultations between the Executive Director and the Committee of Permanent Representatives in preparing the draft budget and programme of work for the biennium 2004-2005 and requests the Executive Director to regularize such consultations for the preparation of each biennial budget and programme of work;

12. Requests the Committee of Permanent Representatives to consult with the Executive Director on ways to provide the Governing Council and the Committee of Permanent Representatives with further information, including financial information and information at the subprogramme level, on the distribution at the regional level of the activities under the programme of work;

13. Expresses its appreciation to those Governments that have contributed to the Environment Fund in the biennium 2002-2003 and appeals to all Governments to contribute to the Environment Fund or to increase their support to the United Nations Environment Programme, in cash and/or in kind, in order to permit the full implementation of the programme;

14. Expresses concern over the fluctuation in the overall contributions to the Environment Fund and the number of countries that have contributed to the Fund in the last four years (1999-2002), while welcoming the recent increase in the number of contributors;

15. Requests the Executive Director to further intensify his resource mobilization efforts, in order to further broaden the donor base;

16. Urges all Governments, where possible, to pay their contributions prior to the year to which the contributions relate, or at the latest at the beginning of the year to which they relate, in order to enable the United Nations Environment Programme to plan and execute the Fund programme more effectively;

17. Urges all Governments, where possible, to make pledges of their future contributions to the Environment Fund at least one year in advance of the year to which they relate, and if possible, on a multi-year basis;

18. Notes the launching of a pilot phase for a voluntary indicative scale of contributions aimed at enhancing predictability in financing the programme of work and broadening the base of contributions;

19. Requests the Executive Director to include in the report called for in paragraph 23 of the appendix to decision SS. VII/1 of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, an analysis of the 2003 pilot phase of the indicative scale of contributions referred to in paragraph 18 above;

20. Approves the recommendation of the Executive Director that the outstanding pledges for the period 1997-1998 should not be regarded as assets for accounting purposes;

21. Approves the proposed staffing tables under the Environment Fund biennial support budget for 2004-2005 as set out in the report of the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.22/6);

22. Notes that an increase in funding from the United Nations regular budget for the United Nations Office at Nairobi and/or the United Nations Environment Programme in the biennium 2004-2005 would decrease the requirement under the Environment Fund biennial support budget and the released resources would be reallocated for programme activities and/or the Environment Fund financial reserve;

23. Welcomes the position of the United Nations General Assembly which, by its resolution 57/251, reiterated the need for stable, adequate and predictable financial resources for the United Nations Environment Programme, and in this regard and in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) underlined the need to consider adequate reflection of all administrative and

management costs of the United Nations Environment Programme in the context of the United Nations regular budget;

24. Looks forward to the implementation of the requests of the General Assembly to the United Nations Secretary-General (i) to keep the resource needs of the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Office at Nairobi under review so as to permit the delivery, in an effective manner, of necessary services to the United Nations Environment Programme and other United Nations organs and organizations in Nairobi (General Assembly resolution 57/251) and (ii) to increase the regular budget component of the United Nations Office at Nairobi in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 (General Assembly resolution 57/293);

25. Requests the Executive Director to provide financial details of work programmes to Governments in accordance with article VI of the General Procedures governing the Operations of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme, if so requested;

26. Requests the Executive Director, further to article VI of the General Procedures governing the Operations of the Fund, to make available to Governments, twice a year, information on progress made in the implementation of the programme of work. That information shall be structured according to the programme of work;

27. Requests the Executive Director to ensure that earmarked contributions to the United Nations Environment Programme, apart from those for which the United Nations Environment Programme merely acts as a treasurer, fund activities that are in line with the programme of work;

28. Authorizes the Executive Director to enter into forward commitments not exceeding $20 million for Fund programme activities for the biennium 2006-2007;

29. Requests the Executive Director to prepare for the biennium 2006-2007 a programme of work consisting of Fund programme activities amounting to $120 million and to adapt, if necessary and in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, that amount based on the experiences witnessed with the pledged and paid contributions;

30. Requests the Executive Director to submit a finalized draft budget and work programme for the biennium 2006-2007 for consideration and approval by the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its twenty-third session;

31. Requests the Executive Director to include in the programme of work, beginning with the biennium 2006-2007, regional annexes identifying the percentage of the budget of the Environment Fund from each of the Divisions that will be implemented at the regional level, and to present this for a decision at the twenty-third session of the Governing Council/ Forum. Preliminary data should be presented to the eighth special session of the Governing Council/Forum.

12th meeting
7 February 2003

22/21. Regional implementation of the programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme

The Governing Council,

Recalling Governing Council decision 20/39 of 4 February 1999 on the functioning of the regional offices and proposed measures for the strengthening of regionalization and decentralization,

Recalling the conclusions and decisions of the seventh special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, held in Cartagena from 13-15 February 2002, in support of regional initiatives,

Noting the provisions of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,[1]

Having considered the discussion paper presented by the Executive Director as a backgroud paper for the ministerial-level consutations on regional implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (UNEP/GC.22/8 and Corr.1),

1. Emphasizes that global environmental policy-setting and implementation in today's globalizing world can be more effective if it takes full account of regional priorities and specificities;

2. Recognizes the importance of effective and timely regional delivery of global policies and programmes, with a view to strengthening and implementing regional and subregional inititatives;

3. Endorses the priorities for attention and action in the regions, as contained in the regional annexes to the discussion paper presented by the Executive Director on regional implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (UNEP/GC.22/8 and Corr.1);

4. Requests the Executive Director to promote and support the work, activities and initiatives of regional and subregional environmental forums, with a view to maximizing their involvement in the preparation and implementation of the decisions of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum;

5. Underlines the crucial role of the regional offices with respect to policy integration, development, and delivery of the programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme in the regions, particularly in the fields of capacity-building and technology transfer;

6. Requests the Executive Director to ensure adequate capacity for the regional offices, for the effective delivery of the programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme, and to respond adequately to the call of the World Summit on Sustainable Development to strengthen and support regional and subregional initiatives and actions such as the New Partnership for Africa's Development, the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative on Sustainable Development, initiatives and partnerships within the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region, the Arab Initiative for Sustainable Development and the Central Asia Action Plan, as well as the interregional aspects of the globally agreed Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Development States;

7. Requests the Executive Director to include in the programme of work beginning with the biennium 2006-2007 regional annexes identifying the percentage of the budget of the Environment Fund from each of the Divisions that will be implemented at the regional level and to present this for a decision at the twenty-third session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum. Preliminary data should be presented to the eighth special session of the Governing Council/Forum;

8. Requests the Executive Director to establish and strengthen partnerships at the regional and subregional levels with other United Nations bodies, development banks and other institutions, including major civil society groups, with a view to enhancing the effectiveness of the development and delivery of the programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme in the regions;

9. Calls on member States with the capacity to do so to support the United Nations Environment Programme's work in the regions and, wherever appropriate, assist in strengthening the capacity and resources of the regional offices to that effect.

11th meeting
7 February 2003

22/22. Revision of the Financial Rules of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme, of the General Procedures governing the Operations of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme, of the general guidelines for the execution of projects and of the institutional and financial arrangements for international environment cooperation

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the revision of the Financial Rules of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/GC.22/7 and Corr.1 and 2), of the General Procedures governing the Operations of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme, of the general guidelines for the execution of projects and of the institutional and financial arrangements for international environment cooperation,

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director;

2. Approves the following revisions of the Financial Rules of the United Nations Environment Programme:

(a) Where the expression "management and administrative support cost" is used (rules 209.1, 210.1, 211.2, 211.5 and 212.1), it shall be replaced by the expression "Environment Fund biennial support budget";

(b) Where the expression "counterpart contributions" is used (rules 204.1, 204.2 and 205.1) it shall be replaced by the expression "earmarked contributions";

3. Approves the following revisions of the General Procedures governing the Operations of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme:

(a) In article VI, paragraph 3, the expression "management and administrative support cost" shall be replaced by "Environment Fund biennial support budget";

(b) In article I, paragraph 1 (l), and in article VIII, paragraphs 2, 3 and 5, the expression "project document" shall be replaced by "project document or costed work plan";

(c) In article VIII, paragraph 6, the words "Administrative Committee on Coordination" shall be replaced by "United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination";

4. Approves the following revisions of the general guidelines for the execution of projects: In article A, paragraphs 6 and 13, the expression "project document" shall be replaced by "project document or costed work plan";

5. Approves the following revisions of the institutional and financial arrangements for international environment cooperation: In article IV, paragraph 1, the words "Administrative Committee on Coordination" shall be replaced by "the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination".

10th meeting
7 February 2003

22/23. Administrative matters

I

Management of trust funds and counterpart (earmarked) contributions

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the management of trust funds (UNEP/GC.22/7 and Corr.1 and 2),

1. Notes and approves the establishment of the following trust funds since the twenty-first session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum:

(a) General trust funds:

(i) AE – General Trust Fund for the Environmental Assessment of Afghanistan, established in 2002 with an expiry date of 31 December 2004;

(ii) DU – General Trust Fund to Support the Activities of the Dams and Development Unit to Coordinate Follow-up to the World Commission on Dams, established in 2001 with an expiry date of 31 December 2003;

(iii) EG – General Trust Fund to establish a secretariat for the Environmental Management Group in International Environment House, Geneva, established in 2001 with an expiry date of 31 December 2004;

(iv) IG – General Trust Fund to Support the Activities of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Group of Ministers or their Representatives on International Environmental Governance, including the Participation of Developing Countries, established in 2001 with an expiry date of 31 December 2003;

(v) MC – General Trust Fund in Support of the Preparation of a Global Assessment of Mercury and its Compounds, established in 2001 with an expiry date of 31 December 2003;

(vi) WP – General Trust Fund to Provide Support to the Global Environment Monitoring System/Water Programme Office and to Promote its Activities, established in 2002 with an expiry date of 31 December 2007;

(b) Technical cooperation trust funds:

(i) BN – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Provision of a Senior Technical Cooperation Advisor/Liaison Officer for the UNEP Office in Brussels (financed by the Government of the Netherlands), established in 2002 with no fixed expiry date;

(ii) IA – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for Ireland Aid Multilateral Environmental Fund for Africa (financed by the Government of Ireland), established in 2002 with an expiry date of 31 July 2005;

(iii) MR – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund on the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles and their Habitats of the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia, established in 2002 with an expiry date of 31 March 2004;

(iv) SN – Special Purpose Trust Fund for the Provision of a Professional Officer to the United Nations Environment Programme/Secretariat of the Basel Convention (financed by the

Government of Switzerland-SAEFL), established in 2002 with an expiry date of 31 December 2004; and

(v) UC – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Enhancement of Cooperation between UNEP and the United Nations Compensation Commission (UNCC) in the Implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 687 (1991), established in 2002 with an expiry date of 31 December 2004;

2. Approves the extension of the following trust funds, subject to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme receiving requests to do so from the relevant Governments or contracting parties:

(a) General trust funds:

(i) AW – General Trust Fund for the Conservation of the African-Eurasian Waterbirds Agreement, through 31 December 2005;

(ii) BA – General Trust Fund for the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas Agreement, through 31 December 2005;

(iii) BC – General Trust Fund for the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, through 31 December 2006;

(iv) BD – General Trust Fund to Assist Developing Countries and Other Countries in Need of Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, through 31 December 2006;

(v) BE – General Trust Fund for Additional Voluntary Contributions in Support of Approved Activities under the Convention on Biological Diversity, through 31 December 2005;

(vi) BK – General Trust Fund for the Clean-up of Environmental Hotspots following the Kosovo Conflicts and Preparation of Guidelines on Assessment and Remedial Measures for Post-conflict Environmental Damages, through 31 December 2005;

(vii) BT – General Trust Fund for the Conservation of European Bats Agreement, through 31 December 2005;

(viii) BY – General Trust Fund for the Convention on Biological Diversity, through 31 December 2005;

(ix) BZ – General Trust Fund for Voluntary Contributions to Facilitate the Participation of Parties in the Process of the Convention on Biological Diversity, through 31 December 2005;

(x) CR – Regional Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme, through 31 December 2005;

(xi) CT – General Trust Fund for the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, through 31 December 2005;

(xii) DU – General Trust Fund to Support the Activities of the Dams and Development Unit to Coordinate Follow-up to the World Commission on Dams, through 31 December 2005;

(xiii) EA – Regional Seas Trust Fund for the Eastern African Region, through 31 December 2005;

(xiv) EG – General Trust Fund to Establish a Secretariat for the Environment Management Group in International Environment House, Geneva, through 31 December 2005;

(xv) ES – Regional Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of East Asian Seas, through 31 December 2005;

(xvi) ET – Trust Fund for the Environmental Training Network in Latin America and the Caribbean, through 31 December 2005;

(xvii) IG – General Trust Fund to Support the Activities of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Group of Ministers or their Representatives on International Environmental Governance, including the Participation of Developing Countries, through 31 December 2005;

(xviii) ME – Trust Fund for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution, through 31 December 2005;

(xix) MS – Trust Fund for the Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, through 31 December 2005;

(xx) PN – General Trust Fund for the Protection, Management and Development of the Coastal and Marine Environment and the Resources of the Northwest Pacific Region, through 31 December 2005;

(xxi) WA – Trust Fund for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the West and Central African Region, through 31 December 2005;

(b) Technical cooperation trust funds:

(i) AH – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Assist the Implementation of Agenda 21 in Europe and to Strengthen the Pan-European Environmental Cooperation (financed by the Government of the Netherlands), through 31 December 2005;

(ii) AN – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund in Support of the UNEPnet Implementation Centre, through 31 December 2005;

(iii) BS – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Support the Establishment of Regional Centres under the Basel Convention (financed by the Government of Switzerland), through, 31 December 2006;

(iv) EL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Strengthen the Institutional and Regulatory Capacity of Developing Countries in Africa (financed by the Government of the Netherlands), through 31 December 2005;

(v) GF – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the United Nations Environment Programme Implementation of the Activities Funded by the Global Environment Facility, through, 30 June 2005;

(vi) GN – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund in Support of the Coordination Office of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (financed by the Government of the Netherlands), through 31 December 2005;

(vii) GW – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Provision of Support to the Global International Waters Project (financed by the Government of Finland), through 31 December 2005;

(viii) IP – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Assist Implementation of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer in Developing Countries (Financed by the Government of Sweden), through 31 December 2005;

(ix) KT – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Promotion of Cleaner Production Investments in Developing Countries (financed by the Government of Norway), through 31 December 2005.

3. Notes and approves the closure of the following trust funds by the Executive Director, subject to completion of their activities and clearance of all financial implications:

(a) General trust funds:

(i) HL – General Trust Fund in Support of the United Nations Environment Programme High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials;

(ii) LA – General Trust Fund in Support of the Lusaka Agreement Task Force on Cooperative Enforcement Operations Directed at Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora;

(iii) PF – General Trust Fund in Support of the Work of the Government-Designated Group of Experts on Chemical Risk Reduction;

(b) Technical cooperation trust funds:

(i) HA – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund in Support of the Meetings of the United Nations Environment Programme High-Level Committee of Ministers and Officials (financed by the Government of the United States of America);

(ii) CS – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Provision of a Senior Professional Officer to the United Nations Environment Programme (financed by the Government of Canada); and

(iii) ZA – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Provision of a Mining Expert (financed by the South African Chamber of Mines).

4. Notes and approves the extension of the following trust funds as requested by decision VI/3, paragraph 9, of the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer,[43] and by decision XIV/41, paragraph 13, of the fourteenth meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances That Deplete the Ozone Layer,[44] respectively:

General trust funds:

(i) VC – The Trust Fund for the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer through 31 December 2010;

(ii) MP – The Trust Fund for the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer through 31 December 2010.

5. Requests the Executive Director to make proposals to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its twenty-third session to review, and if possible reduce, the number of trust funds in support of the work programme, in order to improve the efficiency of the United Nations Environment Programme.

II

Loan from the Environment Fund financial reserve

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 21/33 of 9 February 2001, by which the Governing Council authorized the Executive Director to approve an advance of up to eight million United States dollars from the Environment Fund financial reserve to the United Nations Secretariat,

Taking into account the actions taken by the Executive Director in line with the Governing Council's request that the loan agreement between the Environment Fund and the United Nations Secretariat include a provision on the immediate repayment of the loan should the need arise,

Considering that the Executive Director has submitted to the Committee of Permanent Representatives a status report on the implementation of that decision,

1. Notes with satisfaction the report of the Executive Director on the loan from the Environment Fund financial reserve and the progress achieved in the implementation of the first phase of the construction project (UNEP/GC.22/7 and Corr.1 and 2);

2. Notes with appreciation the actions taken by the Executive Director for negotiating the most favourable terms and rate of interest for the advance from the Environment Fund financial reserve and for ensuring that the agreement includes a provision that the loan would be subject to immediate repayment should the Executive Director so request;

3. Requests the Executive Director to report to the Committee of Permanent Representatives on further progress of loan drawdowns and the status of the construction project, and to report to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its twenty-third session on the implementation of the present decision.

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22/24. Provisional agenda, date and place of the eighth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum and the twenty-third session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972 and 53/242 of 28 July 1999,

Recalling also General Assembly resolutions 47/202 A (paragraph 17) of 22 December 1992, 54/248 of 23 December 1999 and 56/242 of 24 December 2001,

Recalling further Governing Council decision SS.VII/1 of 15 February 2002,

1. Decides to hold its eighth special session in Seoul, from 29 to 31 March 2004, and expresses its appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Korea for its generous offer;

2. Approves the following provisional agenda for the eighth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum:

1. Opening of the session.

2. Organization of the work of the session:

(a) Adoption of the agenda;

(b) Organization of the work of the session.

3. Credentials of representatives.

4. Assessment, monitoring and early warning: state of the environment.

5. Outcomes of intergovernmental meetings of relevance to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum.

6. Follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development: contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to the forthcoming session of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

7. International environmental governance: implementation of decisions of the seventh special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum and the World Summit on Sustainable Development on the report of the Intergovernmental Group of Ministers or Their Representatives on International Environmental Governance.

8. Other matters.

9. Adoption of the report.

10. Closure of the session.

3. Also decides that, in accordance with rules 1, 2 and 4 of its Rules of Procedure, the twenty-third session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum will be held in Nairobi from 21 to 25 February 2005;

4. Further decides that informal consultations among heads of delegations should be held in the afternoon of Sunday, 20 February, the day before the opening of the session;

5. Approves the following provisional agenda for the twenty-third session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum:

1. Opening of the session.

2. Organization of the session:

(a) Election of officers;

(b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session.

3. Credentials of representatives.

4. Assessment, monitoring and early warning: state of the environment.

5. Outcomes of intergovernmental meetings of relevance to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum.

6. Follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development: contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to the forthcoming session of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

7. International environmental governance: implementation of decisions of the seventh special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum and the World Summit on Sustainable Development on the report of the Intergovernmental Group of Ministers or Their Representatives on International Environmental Governance.

8. Cooperation and coordination within the United Nations system on environmental matters.

9. Programme, the Environment Fund and administrative and other budgetary matters.

10. Provisional agenda, date and place of:

    (a) The ninth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum;

    (b) The twenty-fourth session of the Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum.

11. Other matters.

12. Adoption of the report.

13. Closure of the session.

10th meeting
7 February 2003

Notes

[1] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development*, Johannesburg, *South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication Sales No. E.03.II.A.1) chap. I resolution 2, annex.

[2] See *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* United Nations publication, Sales No.E.02.II.A.7).

[3] General Assembly resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000.

[4] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, United Nations publication, Sales No.E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: Resolutions adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex II.

[5] FCCC/CP/2002/7 and Adds. 1-3.

[6] General Assembly resolution 57/2 of 16 September 2002.

[7] Governing Council decision 19/1, annex.

[8] Governing Council decision SS.VI/1, annex.

[9] General Assembly resolution 47/193 of 22 December 1992.

[10] General Assembly resolution 55/196 of 20 December 2000.

[11] See UNEP/GPA/IGR.1/9.

[12] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No E.02.II.A7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[13] UNEP(OCA)/LBA/IG.2/7.

[14] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1) chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[15] See UNEP(DEC)/NEP/IG.1/7.

[16] Requests the Executive Director to increase existing collaborative efforts between the United Nations Environment Programme's ongoing coral-related activities and multilateral environmental conventions, especially with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat and the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage;

[17] Requests the Executive Director to develop collaborative approaches with United Nations agencies including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Trade Organization, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to address the economic, social and environmental urgency of achieving sustainability in the management and use of coral reefs;

[18] Decision 1/CP.8 of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at its eighth session, held in New Delhi, 25 October-1 November 2002 (FCCC/CP/2002/7/Add.1).

[19] Report of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at its seventh session, held in Marrakech, Morocco, 29 October-10 November 2001 (FCCC/2001/13/Adds. 1 and 2).

[20] Estimated by the secretariat to be $500,000 for the biennium.

[21] Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety, third session, Forum III final report (IFCS/Forum III/23w), annex 6.

[22] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, United Nations publication, Sales No.E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: Resolutions adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex I.

[23] Heavy metals and their compounds are included in the definition of chemicals for the purpose of the further development of the strategic approach to international chemicals management.

[24] Estimated by the secretariat to be $600,000 for the biennium.

[25] Estimated by the secretariat to be $800,000 for the biennium.

[26] E/2002/42, E/CN.18/2002/14.

[27] General Assembly decision 54/449, annex.

[28] See World Trade Organization document WT/MIN(01)/DEC/1.

[29] See UNEP/AMCEN/9/2.

[30] See UNEP/AMCEN/EGM/9/5/Add.1.

[31] UNEP/GC.20/INF/21.

[32] A/CONF.191/12.

[33] A/CONF.191/11.

[34] Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April – 6 May 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[35] General Assembly resolution S-22/2, annex.

[36] See UNEP/ENV.Law/4/3.

[37] UNEP/GC.22/INF/24, annex.

[38] Principle 10 of the Declaration reads as follows: "Environmental issues are best handled with the participation of all concerned citizens, at the relevant level. At the national level, each individual shall have appropriate access to information concerning the environment that is held by public authorities, including information on hazardous materials and activities in their communities, and the opportunity to participate in decision-making processes. States shall facilitate and encourage public awareness and participation by making information widely available. Effective access to judicial and administrative proceedings, including redress and remedy, shall be provided."

[39] General Assembly resolution 50/81, annex.

[40] The UNEP Tunza programme focuses on the engagement and involvement of young people in environmental issues.

[41] The UNEP Michezo programme focuses on sport and the environment.

[42] Noting the concerns submitted by Member States to the Executive Director in writing within six weeks of the conclusion of the twenty-second session of the Governing Council.

[43] UNEP/OzL.Conv.6/7.

[44] UNEP/OzL.Pro.14/9.

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